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TWO SHORT EDITORIALS:

'Kim'
'Reverse Stereotypes'

By: Merissa Sherrill Lynn

'Kim'

[The Reverend Kim Crawford Harvie, senior minister of the Arlington Street Church in Boston, was a keynote speaker at the 1990 'Coming Together - Working Together' convention. Her speech is reprinted elsewhere in this issue of the Tapestry.]

Two summers ago I was in Provincetown lounging about on the Boatslip's wonderful deck, soaking up some "rays" and sipping a Babysham, when Alison Laing sat down beside me. In the course of our conversation I asked her why she was there. She told me she came to see Reverend Kim again. She drove nearly 400 miles to go to church?...Ooooh-kay! She then asked me if I would join her. Then Jolynne White asked me to join her. Then Yvonne Cook asked me to join her. Et tu Yvonne? What was this, a conspiracy? Yes, the Meeting House was a beautiful church with its extraordinary trompe l'oeil artwork and scrimshaw, but churches and I didn't exactly mix, especially when they got beyond aesthetics and started talking religion. But, after much cajoling and a little blackmail, they convinced me I had to meet the church's minister, the Reverend Kim Crawford Harvie.

I sat in the church feeling very uneasy. After all, my karma ran over my dogma years ago, and I had long since come to terms with God. Then I looked to my left and there sat a Portuguese fisherman, perhaps in his 60's or perhaps in his 20's, I couldn't tell, but his weathered face reflected his years on the ocean. To my right sat an elderly catholic lady. All around me was as eclectic a congregation as I could imagine, my people, gay people, Portuguese families, and tourists from Iowa. The church was packed to overflowing when Kim came to the pulpit to speak.

When I saw Kim for the first time I was amazed. I was expecting Attila the Nun, but instead she was a cherubic woman in her 30's, looking much more like a tennis player and hiker than a spiritual leader. She looked like my kind of person. Out of the corner of my eye I caught Jolynne smiling at my surprise.

When Kim spoke I did not hear any religious dogma, or tired quotes from tired books. What I heard instead was a genuine human being reaching out her loving and healing hand to us all. I felt her kindness and her compassion for everyone there...including me. As she spoke I found myself crying just like everyone else, and when she was done I felt like hugging everybody...just like everyone else.

Kim gave a powerful sermon, but I couldn't remember what she said. I was too busy crying, and studying everyone else's reaction to what she said. All I could remember was that Kim gave a loving message that I wanted everyone to hear, and I wanted to hear again. So, I asked her if she would like to speak at our 1990 convention.

Besides having a message that everyone should hear, there were other reasons for asking Kim to speak. IFGE's objective was to help all people live happier and more harmonious lives. If we were to succeed it was imperative we build bridges to all people who shared that common objective, especially with the women's movement and the

gay community. We could not be free to be who and what we were, free of fear, and have the equal opportunity to be the best we could be unless all women were free of fear and shared that equal opportunity. We could not have the respect and the dignity we deserved unless all people who lived alternative lifestyles were given the respect and dignity they deserved. As Kim alluded to in her speech, we have all come from different shores in different ships, but we are all in the same boat now. Whether that boat sails or flounders is up to us. With that in mind, at the 1990 convention we placed a much greater emphasis on cooperative action with women and with the gay and lesbian community. Kim was a lesbian, and a feminist, and she had a humanistic loving message for us all. We could not possibly have had a better person come and talk with us.

True, when Kim did speak to us she said a few things that were a bit controversial. (I could feel the pro-lifers in our audience cringe more than once.) The controversy aside, Kim not only gave us a moving speech, she shed a lot of light on the common ground between her sex and her community, and our community.

For instance, she talked about how it was going to take a greater effort for those of us who live on the margins of society to prove ourselves worthy of pride. Yes...absolutely! There is mainstream society out there telling us who and what we are supposed to be. Well, we are not, and will never be what we are "supposed" to be. In the face of that, it will most certainly require a special effort to feel pride in ourselves.

Kim then said, "Normal is only a made-up facade, and a damaging one at that." I think "normal" is more than damaging...I think it's dangerous. "Normal" is used by mainstream society, and even by ourselves, like a gun pressed against our temples..."Conform or die!" "Normal" is more than a damaging facade...it's a lie, especially when it's used as a value judgment. It is a statistical average, and nothing more. It should be given the respect it deserves, which is none.

Kim spoke about our potential as individual members of our community, our potential "to stay confusion, despair, and desperation in our sister travelers," and serve as role models for others. She talked about drawing out our enemies, and in the process drawing out our allies. We will find that we have many more allies than enemies. She talked about having the courage to take risks, and work on humanizing our society. She talked of respect, and freedom, and giving of our time, and energy, and resources to help others. She helped us feel the fear and the vulnerability of not being strong enough to fight back, and challenged us to speak out against violence. She challenged us to think of the world beyond ourselves, and to act. She reminded us that there is healing work to be done, work that is uniquely ours to do.

Yes, when she was done speaking, I was crying once again.

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Reverse Stereotypes:

As I sit here being flagellated by wisdom and advice seekers, I repeat in a whimpering voice again and again and again, "I am a human being. I am not a psychologist!" How am I supposed to know how stereotypes get started? All I know is we are all victims.

Here's an example. Five years ago a young Wayland girl named Sarah Pryor, disappeared. Immediately the Wayland police paid the Tiffany Club a visit. When I asked them why we were being selected for special attention, this was their reply: Transvestites = perverts = child molesters! After I tossed my cookies, I gave those poor cops a lesson they'll not soon forget. By the time I was done they were not only apologizing up one side down the other, they were asking the Tiffany Club to help organize and lead search teams...which we did gladly.

What's the lesson? The police, and the town of Wayland as well, learned that contrary to their preconceived notions, we were not perverts, and not child molesters. They also learned that we were decent people deserving of their respect, good neighbors, and positive members of the community. To this day we have had no further problems with the authorities. We also learned a lesson. We learned, contrary to popular opinion, that the cops were <u>not</u> a bunch of local rednecks out to get us. Instead, we learned they were, for the most part, decent people trying to serve their community. Stereotypes, and reverse stereotypes.

What's society's problem? (How's that for an inane question?) One of its abundant problems is people don't know who we are, and people tend to fear what they do not understand. (I'll bet you didn't know that.) Walk up to your basic K-Mart shopper and ask her what she thinks a transvestite is, and you are liable to get an answer based on the Rocky Horror Picture Show, or the front page of the 'National Inquirer' ("Transvestite Pervert Murders Wife"). She is a victim of her own pre-conceived notions, of her own ignorance and fear, and we are the victims of her fear.

Actually, we are more victims of our own fear of her than she is of her fear of us. So, here we are, living in a society that is basically ignorant and thereby intolerant of who we are. In order to overcome that ignorance and intolerance, we need to get out there and help people get to know us...but we don't. Why not? We don't because we live in fear of social reprisals. The fear continues because we are afraid to confront the root causes of that fear...namely ignorance, intolerance, and (apologies to Rodney Dangerfield), no respect. We don't get the respect we deserve because we don't have the courage to go out there and earn it. There

they are fearing us because of the false and scary images they have conjured up, and here we are afraid because of all those demons out there waiting to "get" us. Stereotypes, and reverse stereotypes.

In philosophy there is a logical fallacy called 'The Straw Man'. Build a false image, and react according to that image. We are all the victims of the straw man fallacy. Society is over there conjuring up images of who and what we are, and we are over here conjuring up images of who and what they are. (That says nothing of the false images we have created for each other in our own community, TS vs TV vs S&M, but that's another issue.) Sure, there are a few among us out there trying to build bridges, but there are so few of us that it's like a kid with an erector set trying to span the Grand Canyon. It isn't that the Grand Canyon can't be spanned, it's just that we, as a community, aren't really trying. Why not?...Because most of us are safe and secure in our own homes or private little social cliques or special interest groups, and are unwilling (for whatever reason - be that fear or lack of caring) to get out there and destroy those straw men and replace them with the tools we need to build those bridges.

I want people to have the brass to get out there and confront their demons. If we do, we will find our stereotypes are usually false and our fears unfounded. It's true, if we confront our demons both out there in the world and within ourselves, we will uproot our enemies. However, as Reverend Kim Harvie stated, we will also uproot our allies, and we will find that we have a lot more allies than enemies. We will also find the courage to be who and what we are with pride, and earn the respect we deserve.

Here's an example. If I say "Cowboy" (pronounced "ka-boi"), "Mexican", and "Military", what stereotypes do you conjure up?...Probably "John Wayne", "Latin macho", and "homophobic Nazi-types". Would you want to go to a place loaded with cowboys, Mexicans, and soldiers? Hell no! Yet, a few hardy souls (Jan Rupard, Mary Frances, and others) went out into San Antonio, the heart of cowboy-Mexican-military country, and created the Texas T-Party, one of the largest and most enjoyable events in our community. What of the San Antonio people? Once they got to know us they proved to be warm and friendly, and solid supporters.

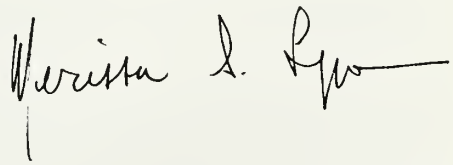
Here is another example of confronting our demons. When Michelle Lee first told me that Emerald City was planning on sponsoring a weekend outing to Port Angeles, a small town on the northern tip of the Olympic Peninsula, my first reaction was, "Oh my God, that's Assembly of God and logger country!" Now, when you think of Assembly of God, and loggers, what kind of an image do you have? Yep! That's the same one I had, and it's the same one I feared the members of Emerald City would have. Yep! They did. I had visions of bible thumpers armed with bibles in one hand and little children in the other, and redneck loggers with axe handles in hand, lining the streets waiting for us. Was our stereotype right? Nope! ... But the fear was real. There was a serious danger the event would not happen because of that fear. If it were not for the courage of Michelle Lee and Janice Van Cleve going into Port Angeles to "break the ice", '90 In '90 would never have happened. The result? '90 In '90 was a thoroughly enjoyable event, there were no loggers with axe handles waiting for us, and there was no blood on the streets. In fact, the townspeople couldn't have been nicer. One more stereotype down the drain.

There are many wonderful little stories concerning stereotypes and the Port Angeles event. For instance, there is the story of Jolynne White's brother in law who visited with us for an evening who said, "I didn't want to be here, but I'm glad I came. You are a nice bunch of people." One more stereotype down the drain. Then there is the story of the first time crossdresser from Port Angeles who kept us informed of the local gossip and how the attitudes of the townspeople changed during our visit. Then there was the Assembly of God people who had a meeting in our hotel then joined us in the lounge for drinks and laughter. That's a far cry from how we pictured them. More stereotypes down the drain.

My favorite story is about sweatshirts. When we arrived at our hotel we found a large box filled with sweatshirts. They were light blue, all sizes, had an image of what appeared to be Kirk Douglas in a sun bonnet and an inscription that said, "Class knows no gender." I thought to myself what a wonderful thing for Emerald City to do. But it wasn't Emerald City, it was a local lady named Theresa Zapin, or "Zappy". Zappy, the wife of a member of the Port Angeles police department, did the artwork and presented the sweatshirts to us as a way of welcoming us to Port Angeles.

We went to Port Angeles expecting to find rednecks and bible thumpers. Instead we find drinking buddies and people like Zappy. Isn't it amazing? If people give us a chance to prove their stereotypes wrong, and we give them a chance to prove our stereotypes wrong, we find that there truly are some wonderful people on this earth.

My love to you all,



EDITORIAL:

[Wendi is a co-founder of 'A Rose', and the current chairperson of the IFGE Board of Directors. Those who wish to contact Wendi may do so by writing: Wendi Pierce, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261]

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE TRANSSEXUAL?

By: Wendi Danielle Pierce

Recently, I was asked to address a women's symposium at Arizona State University. The topic I was to cover was one which I have had quite a lot of firsthand experience in the last few years. That topic is the title of this editorial, i.e. "Who Speaks For The Transsexual?". Over the past few years I have traversed a road that has become more traveled in the recent past...that of changing my sex, gender role, and along with it, my sexual preference. Throughout my transition I have had ample opportunity to ask the question, "Who speaks for the transsexual," and I believe I have the answer.

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I was not one of the forerunners in the area of transsexualism. I was not breaking any new ground, and did not feel that this change was anything that could be taken as unique. Thousands have done it before me, and many more thousands, I am sure, will do it in the future. But, along the way many things happened to me that caused me to ask, "Who speaks for me? Who is fighting for my rights and the rights of other transsexuals? Who is fighting to tear down those roadblocks to our living "normal" lives in mainstream society?"

All I knew was there were others before me who had paved the way for my journey. Yes, there have been several books written by a select few that had transitioned in the past. Rene Richards, Christine Jorgensen, and Canary Conn to name a few have written books about their experiences. After their books were published they remained in the limelight to some degree, but they are not the ones speaking for transsexuals today. Neither are the thousands of other transsexuals who have successfully completed their transition. They are at their destination...living anonymous lives in mainstream society. Therefore, they are not the ones to speak for transsexuals.

In today's society, which has become more tolerant and open, there are still many areas that are not considered addressable, even moral enough, to assist those that are facing these issues. I feel transsexuals is one of these. Sure, the media and news papers are always running expose's on persons that are somehow coerced in reiterating their stories. The talk shows and tabloids learned long ago that this type of activity seems to have a great shock value to many viewers and readers. If it increases circulation or audience, then it gets space or air time. But, I don't think that the people being interviewed are the ones that are speaking for transsexuals.

What of those who tried to traverse this same path and failed? Many of them have reverted back to their former frustrated lives, possibly becoming drug addicts, or alcoholics, or committing suicide. A few of the survivors do speak, but are not what I would call supportive of transsexuals in general. When given the chance, most seem to carry on about how they were wrong, how they were led to believe they were transsexual by their caretakers, i.e. the medical and mental health professionals, and how at long last they found their errors and corrected their ways. If transsexuality was the root of their problem, they would have found a way to succeed. Since they have failed, I believe that they were not transsexual in the first place...gender dysphoric maybe, but not true transsexual, and therefore not qualified to speak for transsexuals.

What of the caretakers, the medical professionals and the therapists that control the transsexual's progression and direct the lives of those in transition? Society entrusts the care and direction of those in transition to these people. Many believe these professionals are qualified to speak for transsexuals, but I do not agree. First, there are too few trained caretakers, too few who know how to deal with a transsexual, much less speak for them. What about the trained caretakers? Yes, these people know the symptoms, sure they have arrived at "accepted" methods of care and ways of dealing with this condition. I feel that their speaking for the transsexuals is similar to a person writing a manual about driving a car without ever having a driver's license, or a father trying to describe the birth process. Sure, he might have been there, but his experience is merely second hand at best. Don't get me wrong. Trained caretakers are helpful in many ways, but their ability to speak for the transsexual community is limited. They can convey things like statistical information, general traits and tendencies and methods of treatment to society at large, but they are not spokespersons for transsexuals.

I feel caretakers can perform a great service to transsexuals by sharing what they have learned with society in general. They can teach the world that given a chance, transsexuals are no different than any other minority. They have a right to be treated as people, yes, people with unique desires and needs, but just people trying to live their lives as they feel they are inside. Also, caretakers can teach that transsexualism is not contagious and transsexuals can be productive citizens if given a chance.

What of the families and friends of transsexuals? Can they speak for the transsexual? One would assume that they are qualified since they were there when the steps were taken, as the triumphs were realized, and as the pitfalls were uncovered. But were they? In many cases, mine included, the traditional family and almost all former friends backed off. Sure, they were there at the start. Sure, most seemed to say that they could deal with it, but the bottom line is that most will drift away as my family did. Therefore, I do not feel that the family and friends are, or ought to be spokespersons for the transsexual.

What of the support network that provides much of the information which transsexuals consume throughout their transition period? Should they speak for the transsexual? They do -- at least within the gender community they do. This network has evolved over the past 10 years or so and at some point most transsexual persons do link into it. The network is comprised of several "gender centers" in various parts of the country, dozens of support groups in major cities, computer bulletin boards and a few publications that circulate throughout the community. Is this network and the key persons who lead it the right choice to be the speakers for transsexuals? In some ways they are. The media is beginning to utilize this network to get speakers for national television shows, the publications are finding their way into university libraries and some retail book outlets, and several notable figures have emerged who have dedicated much of their time and efforts to helping this community. Isn't this the likely place to say the spokespersons for transsexuals are? I say no!

I say there are no spokespersons, and there shouldn't be any. The root of the matter is that the transsexual community is not a stable force. It is merely a wayside that is passed by like a small rest stop during a cross country trek. Persons who have made the trek are at their destination. They are in mainstream society, are living "normal" lives, and most do not wish to be reminded of the fact that the trek was even undertaken. As I have said before their goal is to live a life in the sex and gender they feel they were meant to be. Therefore, transsexuals do not wish for anyone to speak for them as transsexuals, but as people. They wish to have all the rights and privileges that other citizens have, to be protected from wrong, and share the opportunities that the general populous shares.

Yet, there are many areas that will be a problem, at least for the foreseeable future. These areas include such things as marriage, child custody, insurance, job security, and a host of other areas which might be stumbling blocks, even road blocks, to a transsexual's being fully integrated into society. It will take the efforts of many to resolve these and other issues. However, these efforts must come from people other than transsexuals, or the transsexual community.

It is unlikely the transsexual community will band together, to unite, to organize and fight for its rights. If it does, it risks that which its members have so long strived for, the anonymity of being "normal".

There are a few transsexuals who will relinquish their anonymity. A few will speak up, possibly as part of the forces of other minorities such as the gender community, the gay community, the handicapped, and women. Possibly through alliances and education of these groups, change and equality will come. However, the transsexual community, labeled by some "The Stealth Transsexuals", does not desire to go it alone, to be recognized as an entity and fight the establishment, or to relinquish the anonymity that once attained is not easily surrendered.

Speaking for the transsexual does not mean educating the transsexual community or the general public. That can be done by trained caretakers and the support network. Speaking for the transsexual means fighting for the removal of the stumbling blocks and roadblocks that prevent transsexuals from leading "normal" and anonymous lives in mainstream society. Therefore, I believe that there are no, and should not be any spokespersons for transsexuals per say. However, hopefully there are a few transsexuals willing to work with and educate other minority groups. According to the statistics, all these other groups do undoubtedly have "former" transsexuals as part of their communities, and

therefore should be educated to include provisions which specifically include these people in the rights that they as a group are working to accomplish. Then, hopefully, the members of those groups will be willing to support the rights of transsexuals as part of the rights of all people.

Who speaks for the transsexual? Everyone!

[END]

HOW TO FIND A PHYSICIAN

by Sheila Kirk, M.D.

Finding a physician would not appear to be difficult. After all, there are a great number of them listed in the Yellow Pages. However, finding one that's right for you is a difficult and very real problem.

To find a responsible, qualified, and interested doctor may sometimes be pure chance. Often we rely on the choice of a friend, or a relative whose only criteria is that the doctor he or she sees is likable, doesn't charge too much, or doesn't make a person wait too long in the waiting room. Sometimes the criteria extends to how well the person feels after the advice or therapy while giving the doctor full credit and not crediting the possible influence of time and Divine Providence. In short, what a physician's qualifications may be, his experience, and interest in keeping up with medical advances, are virtually unknown to you. Other than the fact that he is licensed or has on his wall his specialty Board certification, you haven't much to go on. Now add to that <u>your</u> special needs, and finding a physician becomes a very tall order indeed.

How do you find a physician? To begin with, don't allow what I have said thus far to discourage you or make you fearful, for while I have stated the problem, I hasten to tell you that it has a solution. Don't feel either that you should doubt or lessen the importance of a physician, for most are very responsible and anxious to be of help, and most are skilled and well-trained. Hence, I emphasize the fact that you do <u>consult</u> with a physician who will study you and your health profile for your overall health needs. You and he must be sure that you are in good health from every standpoint and that your good health will not be affected by the "meddlesome" plan you want to put into motion. Therefore, his knowledge and experience in general medicine and in general medical care are paramount. To that, we want also to find that he has experience and information about transgender medicine. And there's the rub!

There are few physicians who have this special knowledge and experience. Even in those disciplines of medicine where a physician could successfully apply his art to hormonal or surgical management of the transgendered, his interest never takes him near that area of care. There are many endocrinologists who know nothing of hormonal techniques in a gender dysphoric individual and many psychiatrists who have never treated a transsexual for anything what ever. I caution you against selecting a physician with no experience who may be empathetic and interested, but is without proper background. To be sure, I don't favor "you teaching him" about you in this instance. It may be, of course, that's all there is, and you must rely on that phys-ician's genuine desire to help. Therefore, he will go to the medical literature and read, and that literature <u>is</u> available to him. He can become informed and he can find other physicians for his guidance who are experienced in trans-gender care. In smaller communities, that may be all that is possible, but it's not the ideal.

So, where do we find that physician who is capable in caring for your general medical health and your special needs together?

Your family physician!

To start with, if you have a good relationship with your family

physician, if you've known him for years, believe me, this is a good place to begin. He is a good place to start because **(a)** he has known you and your medical status for some time, and **(b)** because your secret, if it be a secret, is safe with him. He will keep it so. You have shared with him a confidence that he will not reveal. The probability of him knowing how to treat you and direct you is not great, but once again he will go to the literature to research you and your special needs. He will also have access to medical personnel who can give proper information and direction for you and tell you who they are. He can refer you to the right physician. There is no chance involved, no guesswork, no difficult search on his part or yours. He will make a sound decision and a sound referral for you.

A mental health professional.

If that is not an acceptable approach for you, then your next option is to make an appointment with a psychiatrist or a psychologist. You should inquire of his receptionist, asking if he manages patients with gender dysphoric needs. The chances are high that she will not know what you are talking about, but she will ask the doctor, and if he does have experience, you will be scheduled. If he doesn't, ask for his referral to a psychiatrist or psychologist who does. I am quite certain you will get a referral on that basis. If for some reason, however, he does not make a proper referral, call another office and use the same approach. Once again, you are on the right pathway. A psychiatrist or a psychologist who cares for the transgendered will know who, in your community or near to it, cares for the transgendered and their medical and surgical needs. You may choose to continue psychological therapy and evaluation while you move on to the medical referral given to you.

Gender clinic.

There's another option. If there is a gender identity clinic near to you, associated with that clinic is a team consisting of internists, endocrinologists and surgeons. In addition, there will be psychiatrists, psychologists and sociologists associated with that team. This is an ideal situation, for here most of the needs of the individual are met in one place. Enrollment in such a clinic has both positives and negatives. Discussion of this, however, is not necessary at this time, but I believe that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

Your county medical society.

A call placed to the county medical society can help you locate a doctor who has an interest in gender dysphoria. Once again, that physician will know how to evaluate and treat, and will know who in the community or in a nearby city may also be oriented to this area of medicine.

Gender community referrals.

One more thought comes to mind. IFGE, in cooperation with local support organizations, is compiling a referral list of physicians and therapists in locations over the country. The listing is not complete, and it needs constant attention and revision, but there <u>is</u> information available. Hopefully, in time, the liaison between the professionals and IFGE will expand such that it will be possible to refer an individual anywhere in the country to a doctor quite near them, and to one who is capable as well.

It does not have to be a matter of chance. It is possible to find a doctor who can be entrusted with your ordinary and extraordinary medical needs. You shouldn't hesitate to search, nor should you abandon the effort after one or two attempts. Doctors are becoming more knowledgeable and more interested. They are also more aware of where accurate medical information is to be found. There <u>is</u> a physician for you out there.

[END]

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JoLynne White #5

SELF-ESTEEM

I'd like to discuss the importance of having self esteem, looking at what happens when we don't have it and finding ways to increase it in our lives.

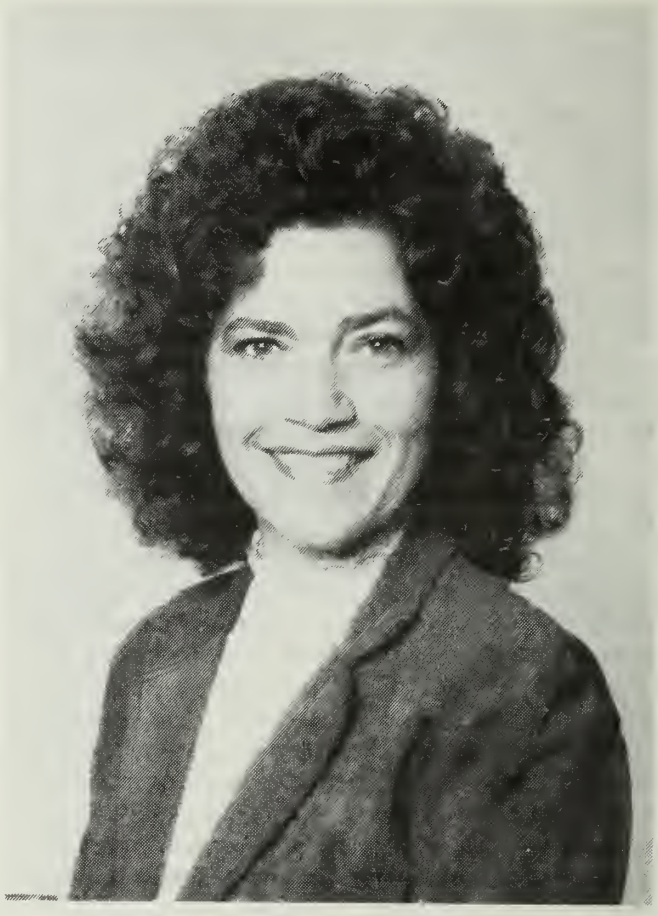
How we feel about ourselves is significant because it governs ALL areas of our lives. It affects how well we stand up for ourselves and ask for what we want. It determines whether or not we live with integrity in our lives, while it also plays into how well we treat ourselves and others. People who feel confident and satisfied with themselves have self esteem which develops from learning to love and accept ourselves exactly as we are. People who practice this consistently bring ongoing miracles into their lives. Their health improves, prosperity increases, relationships heal and flourish, and they begin to express themselves in more creative and authentic ways.

When self esteem exists in our lives, there's an overall feeling of self acceptance. Sure, we may not be perfect, but we're realize you're not bad people either. We accept our humanness. When we accept ourselves, we generally become more accepting of others which leads to less judgement, impatience and anger. Self esteem implies not being afraid to ask for what we want, or asking for support when we need it.

People who experience self acceptance usually believe they deserve to be happy, respected, loved, prosperous, acknowledged, listened to, etc. Self acceptance implies we don't have to rely wholly on the acceptance of others. We're not as concerned with what other people think of us because we feel okay about ourselves. We usually feel better physically because we take care of our bodies. All these results tend to make us less fearful. We have empowered ourselves and take responsibility for what happens to us.

What happens to us when we don't experience having self esteem?

* We may find ourselves in unhappy or unhealthy behavior patterns that keep repeating themselves and we don't know why.
* We see ourselves as victims, blaming others for our plight.
* We hide our true feelings from others, afraid to share our fears and vulnerabilities.
* We may try to control ourselves and others to make us feel more secure.
* We may not take good care of our bodies.
* We're afraid to ask for what we want.
* We tend to look for fulfillment outside of ourselves, rather than from within, preferring a "quick fix" remedy to ease the pain, rather than a long term solution which might make us feel better about ourselves.



Given a choice, I suspect each of us would prefer to feel better about ourselves in one way or another. The following paragraphs briefly describe simple ways we can raise our self esteem. Try them and see what works.

Acceptance:

Acceptance means we acknowledge our circumstances, including ourselves and others as we and they currently exist. It does NOT mean resignation, adaptation or accepting any sort of abuse. We learn to respond responsibly through our acceptance. An alcoholic cannot stop drinking until he or she accepts his or her powerlessness over alcohol. Likewise, a crossdresser cannot begin to feel better about who he is until he accepts his desire to dress as being a part of who he is. The paradox of acceptance stems from the fact that we cannot change who we are until we accept ourselves the way we are. In the book 'Honoring the Self', Nathaniel Branden states,

> " ...If I can accept that who I am, that I feel what I feel, that I have done what I have done--if I can accept it whether I like all of it or not -- then I can

accept myself....And so I clear the road for the first steps of strengthening my self-esteem."

Staying in the Moment: From time to time each one us tends to worry about something. When we do, our thoughts are on the future, rather than in the present moment. I love the saying, "One day at a time" for it reminds me all I have is this present day. I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, so why worry about it? We can set goals and plan ahead to be prepared and yet, we really only have this present moment in time, so why not experience it to the fullest?

Guilt:

Feelings of guilt stem from thinking about an event which occurred in the past. We cannot change the past. We can, however, learn from our experiences so we don't have to repeat the same unhappy patterns. The past is over and done. Remember that what we are choosing to think and believe and say at this present moment, will create our future. We may therefore want to notice whether our thoughts are positive or negative. Which one do you want to be creating your future?

Gratitude:

Gratitude is a wonderful heart opener! It comes from appreciating all the good things we have. Since what we believe about ourselves and life becomes true for us, gratitude plays an important role in bringing more positive events into our lives. For instance, whenever I start to worry about money, I stop myself and become grateful for the money I have. Or, if I find a parking space near the grocery store, I express gratitude. If you are a CD and your wife knows about your dressing but isn't gung ho about it, how do you react? Are you impatient or sad because she doesn't give you the support you want or are you grateful that this same person has listened and is trying to understand this part of you? Do you take life for granted or do you feel grateful for all the gifts you've received? It's quite simple! If you want more of something, be grateful for what you have and your thoughts will help create bringing more of it your way. If you're doubtful, try it and see what happens! You can't lose!

Responsibility:

Taking responsibility for our feelings means giving ourselves permission to feel them and then finding healthy ways to express them. Have you ever found yourself angry at someone and when asked, "what's wrong?" totally deny anything's wrong? An example of not being responsible comes up when the father comes home from a frustrating day at the office and takes it out on one of his kids because the bedroom isn't cleaned, the lawn hasn't been mowed, the dinner's late again, etc. etc. For some of us, this isn't easy because we're not always aware of our feelings.

If you've been brought up in a family where it wasn't safe to express your feelings, you may need some encouragement in this area. I used to hide from my feelings and not

Feeling Female is a State of Mind

It has nothing to do with gender. we all have **masculine** *and* **feminine** *energies within us. When we give free rein to both of these energies they can operate in balance and harmony--and we can be at peace.*

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If you wish, I can also help you to create a healthier balance between your masculine nd feminine energies. I offer phone consultations as well as personal appointments.

Please call me to arrange an intial interview.

Jo Lynne White
New York, New York
212-867-8746

share my fears or vulnerabilities with anyone so I wouldn't be hurt and/or abandoned. Today, I'm slowly learning to trust myself and others enough to begin sharing some of my inner feelings. What I'm learning is that the more I share my true vulnerabilities, the more authentic I become, the easier it is for people to approach and love me. Its not easy trying to get close to someone who seems to have it all together most of the time.

My denial of my feelings gave me isolation and separateness -- the exact opposite of what I wanted. I have taken small risks, one at a time, to test the waters, sharing both negative and positive feelings. Every time I do this, I feel a bit more empowered. It gets easier and easier with the practice. I invite you to try taking a few small risks by allowing yourself to experience your feelings, knowing your emotions are neither good nor bad.

Physical health:

Taking care of your body sounds like a simple thing to do, and yet how many of us do just that? Our bodies are no different from an automobile in that they need fuel and regular maintenance to keep them running smoothly. What we eat affects how we feel, both emotionally and physically. For those of you who crave sweets, the next time you go for the chocolate or ice cream, ask yourself, "What am I really hungry for?" My answer has always been, "I'm hungry for love". If this is true for you, how can you nurture yourself from within so you don't have to stuff your feelings with the sugar.

One doesn't have to be a Jane Fonda or Jack Lalanne to exercise. Studies have shown people live longer lives with less stress when they exercise regularly. This could be walking, stretching, swimming, bicycling, etc. If you agree with this and yet you find excuses for not exercising, ask yourself this question: "Do I think I deserve to have a healthy, vibrant, energetic body?" If the answer is yes, what's keeping you from following through?

Another way I take care of my body is by listening to it. It means getting enough sleep and slowing down the pace when I begin to feel stressed. It also means putting some relaxing and alone time into my schedule to keep me from getting run down physically and emotionally.

Support:

Create or join a support structure and use it! I can't emphasize enough the importance of this idea. Fortunately, most of the people reading this magazine already know of the support groups available throughout the world. Remember what it was like before you knew anyone else cross dressed? Remember how alone you felt, not having anyone to talk to or ask questions about dressing? Think about the difference that exists today, knowing there are people you can call or write to for help or support. This country has a proliferation of self-help support groups founded on the twelve step principles brought forth by Alcoholics Anonymous because people can help one another by sharing their own experiences, strengths and hopes with each other.

I'd like to close with some thoughts from the book, The Discovery of Joy, by Richard M. Eyre. Our minds are like fertile soil... it returns when we plant it. If we think we're lousy, we will be. Telling ourselves we're great makes us so. Some of us avoid complimenting ourselves because we mistake confidence for conceit, and confuse self-love with self-centeredness. Someone who accepts himself becomes more sensitive to others, for he is less wrapped up in worrying about himself and has more time and concern for others.

- END -

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Response to Merissa' Editorial #55

Dear Editor,

Last December I found myself in Merissa's office having made a comment of some nature or other in which I referred to the "Gender Community". Having just finished her editorial entitled "My Workshop" for Tapestry #55, I was immediately confronted with her lecture on "Community 101" as represented in that article... to wit: "WE are going to work with the gay community and the women's movement??? ... We don't even know who we are, much less have anything resembling an objective, or an organized movement." A little later she stated in her lecture, that what we had was "an identifiable 'market'" and that "does not make a community!" In the article she goes on to identify a community as "People caring about each other and willing to take care of each other and fight for each other's rights ... and we simply haven't gotten that far yet."

Now, Merissa has a lot of valid things to say, and maybe this too was true not too long ago, but I'm sorry Merissa, I flat out disagree. In the last two years I have seen too much happen to deny us the right to call ourselves a community. In the last two years, on a national level through a growing networking organization both on the computers and off, I have seen people literally and figuratively reach out to others to hold, hug, and even cry with their sisters. I have seen one person take in or even provide employment for others less fortunate. I have seen offers of professional services for persons who have given of themselves for others unable to do so more openly. I have watched as my sisters burst into tears at some particularly touching moment on a national TV show. I have seen people holding hands and give hours of their time to try to selflessly help another sister through some difficult time. To me this is the epitome of people caring and taking care of others.

I have watched as an irrepressible groundswell of suppression has erupted into a blossoming political activism. I have heard cries about discrimination, and seen people willing to take risks to be identified to both march for their rights and to write their Congress persons. I've seen people organize educational workshops to help train those who interact with our community. I've seen people who are giving everything they have to fight the abuses fostered on us by judicial decisions indicating a lack of representation under Title VII or the EEO. I've seen a growing verbal support for those leaders to continue the fight. I've watched as this dawning awareness that everything isn't OK in paradise was brought to a crescendo by the blatant discrimination outlined in 1989's SB 933 Amendment 722, and HR 2273 as amended by section 511 which, to quote Sister Mary Elizabeth, "not only excluded transsexuals and transvestites from the definition of "handicapped" ... but further stigmatize them by categorizing them with behaviors considered both criminal and deviant--i.e. pedophiles, voyeurs, exhibitionists, pyromaniacs, kleptomaniacs, etc."

Later this Spring TGIC is supporting the march on Albany hosted by the New York State Lesbian and Gay organizations as a demonstration of support for pending statewide civil rights legislation. Hopefully, this will mark the first time when our community has stepped forward bravely to state that "Yes, we are abused and discriminated against!" These people are beginning to fight for each others' rights!!

In conclusion, let me just say a couple of very intensely personal things... I wouldn't be alive right now if it weren't for the loving care and assistance of this community. Last year, my life fell apart. My sisters took me in, encouraged me, loved me and gave me hope, not just here in Albany, but nationwide. To deny us the right to call ourselves a community is just as much a form of discrimination as our government's worst legislation. We DO care about each other, we do take care of each other, we do fight for each other right now! And we will continue to do so until we are reunited with our greater national community.

You Merissa, have helped so many of us by showing us the way... how to care for and love each other regardless of our differences, and I for one feel you do yourself a disservice by denying that we have a community. Maybe it's far from perfect... maybe the objectives are fuzzy, or ill planned or lacking in organization, but after all that's what we have IFGE for, right? Maybe we do have a long way to go, but by being able to identify with that community no matter how passingly, gives us a sense of purpose, and a known direction. It helps a LOT of lonely scared people know that there is someone who cares, that there are others who really do understand, that they aren't alone. Please don't deny us that.

Jennifer Wells
P.O. Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181
(518) 432-7092

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*[Dear **Jennifer**, or for that matter, Dear Anyone who is putting out some effort on behalf of someone else, or working with other minority groups. If you are doing good things, brag about it! Write up a press release and send it to me. You let me know about it, and I'll tell the world! Letting our people know there are good things going on is a fantastic way to let our people know they are part of something much greater than themselves or their own special interest group.... they are members of a community! -- ED]*

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Dear Editor,

For many, many years I've secretly struggled with the thrilling possibility that I'm an involuntary TS. On many days, while successful "professionally" as a male, I am pre-occupied with the urgency

to be a woman in all regards, i.e. association, mannerisms, dress, and emotionally. However, I'm still closeted.

I would like to share with you my first TV/TS contact. It was a totally discouraging experience. I encountered very comfortable, very casual cross-dressers while I, as a TS, was seeking & hoping to encounter and develop an understanding and helpful association with "women-in-transition". I was totally discouraged by persons having passable female appearances but exhibiting a decidedly male persona -- ouch! I quickly returned to my closet. Still, my day-in day-out pre-occupation & urgency to always be "Ginny" sustains my pursuit of total femininity. I cross my fingers that my next public TS experience is with another devoted TS.

Please don't misunderstand my response as negative to TV's. I just want to stress the necessity for both TV's and TS's to carefully identify & respect the other's "slightly" different orientation, and urgency for acceptance!

- Ginny W. (OR)

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Responses to Tapestry #53

Dear Editor,

Believe it or not, while I've been actively involved in and writing for the gender community for many years, last evening was my first encounter with an issue of your journal (#53). I scanned the pages with interest. I found it full of "good stuff". Oh, I know you know it is chock full of "nutrition for the mind and the spirit" of the community, so I won't rave. I'll just say: "Good Show, old girl! Keep up the great work!"

May I comment on some of the topics covered in issue 53?

You and the law ... Some have had really bad experiences. Most by following the sensible pattern of advised behavior you repeat in issue #5[illegible] have had no more real problem than they'd have had dressed "otherwise". I spend a good deal of time with a LEO (Law Enforcement Officer), my adopted sister (female). At work she dresses in "men's clothes". The uniforms are designed and selected by the male officers. In their typical jingoistic manner, they issue trousers to the female officers only in three sizes too small (she says).... and watching her walk away, I agree. Off duty, she's always in a floppy "man's" shirt and jeans. (Jeans bought in the "men's" department are less expensive than the name brand things found in ladies' wear.) I'm almost always in a dress or sweater and skirt. Some might call us a real "Odd Couple".

The military.... I'm a retired USAF officer. I know the mind set. I know the attitude. I know the phobic reaction and simplistic approach. If any of your readers are in the uniformed services, please advise them to seek counselling and help with understanding and accepting themselves OUTSIDE the military establishment. If they go to any of the service medical, psychiatric, or psychologic services, they will be treated but not in a warm and supportive manner. The mindset sees people as consumable supplies.... to be used and discarded. People or equipment which aren't "up to specs" are either salvaged or thrown out! I suspect Klinger had the right idea, just in the wrong place. The best way I can conceive for a military male to graduate to civilian status would be to be caught wearing panties or dressing up.

Hormones.... Here's an issue close to my heart. I'm 59. When I was 43, I began having trouble voiding my bladder. I refused surgery, because I'd seen too many cases in my practice in which it had to be repeated (the procedure is called a Trans Urethral Resection.... or a ream job) because the real problem of hyperplastic (rapidly over growing) prostate was not addressed. Hormone therapy is common in treating cancer of the prostate. It results in shrinking the prostate by cutting off the supply of male hormone (Testosterone) on which the prostate tissue depends. I began taking 2.5mg Premarin daily. The problem disappeared. Since then, I've continued the maintenance dose. All the things listed in issue #53 as "side effects" of Estrogen/Progesterone intake by the male are spot on.... accurate in the last detail. The issue is close to my heart.... B-Cup close.

Self Image.... As a practicing psychologist in years past (now retired) the most difficult element of trouble for most of my patients.... both atypical gender patients and otherwise.... was how they "saw" themselves.... self image. Once this element is brought into a healthy condition, other problems resume manageable proportions and tend, by and large, to solve themselves. I could not accept love until I learned to love myself. Neither could I give it. I could not accept acceptance, nor could I give it, until I learned to love the who, how, and what I am.

Your journal is really attractive, well laid out, well presented. It speaks well for the atypical gender community. I know it takes a ton of work and costs 16 tons of cash to produce. Keep up the good work.

Jaye Reviere, PhD
Copy Editor, The Femme Mirror

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Response to K.J. Moore's editorial #55

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the opinion article by K.J. Moore, 'Crossdressing From a Career Woman's Viewpoint'.

I am the wife of a crossdresser. I am supportive of my husband in all his endeavors, crossdressing and self-discovery being part of that. I too, cannot understand why a crossdresser would see the feminine role as a "relief" from pressures.

I work with women as an OB/GYN nurse and educator and have many occasions to counsel women and families around issues of having and raising a family and working. Yes, us "older" women (in their 40's) may have stayed home for a period of time but what did this mean? First you scurry to complete an education, then you work while pregnant. You struggle to care for your babies, work part-time, breastfeed and run a household while "staying home". If your husband is teaming ahead on his own career track, he works long hours and may travel. You are raising the kids, working part-time and doing all your "feminine" chores and his "masculine" chores to keep the family intact. (And of course you must still look young and sexy while feeling maternal and tired). At a party, people walk away from you when they hear you are "at home". Raising kids, running a household and teaching part-time does not count as "working" (a true incident).

All this is called "staying home". When your kids get older - back to work full time you go. Of course you start back at the bottom - below others with less education. So back to school at the age of 41, com-

peting with others 10-15 years younger, without family responsibilities. Here you are - older, struggling to learn and main tain grades, working part-time and trying to move your career ahead despite being far behind - without too many years ahead to catch up - struggling with the responsibilities of the children, aging parents and of course the emotional issues of your husband's crossdressing (and still of course needing to look young and attractive). If you think this is a "relief from pressure", please ladies, give it a long hard look and realize neither gender has it easy in today's world. Let's work together - please don't put women down by saying being a female is a relief from stress. The grass is not always greener on the other side!!

Roz G.
Box 6211, Boston, MA 02114

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Response to Jolynne's editorial #55

Dear Editor,

I recently purchased issue #55, and it was without a doubt one of your best. I especially loved the article "A Positive Perspective" by Jolynne White. What made this article so touching was it made me look at myself for what I am, and more importantly, what I can become. All my life I was scared that my parents and sisters would find out about my dressing habits. But so what? It's time for me to STOP repressing all my guilt and self hatred, and start living.

I hope your readers never forget one very important paragraph from "A Positive Perspective"... "Self-acceptance evolves when you stop thinking that crossdressing isn't right or sane, and you cease to make it wrong. That happens only through your acceptance of it. What is, is! Wanting to wear certain fabrics next to your skin and look a certain way is not a matter of right or wrong, it just is. Accepting this as a part of you, rather than fighting it will bring healing and self-acceptance into your life." Thank you Jolynne White.

-- Ashbey A. (OH)

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Response to April's article in #55

Dear Editor,

After reading one of your current articles in issue #55 by April Daize (p 53/54), I felt an extremely strong urge to comment and extend my hand of support to April.

In the mid-'70's I sought professional help for my transsexualism in a community and state (AZ) which did not support or condone alternate lifestyles, or any individual involved. This attitude is still unchanged 15 years later. The professionals I saw strongly believed I had an alcohol problem, and Alcoholics Anonymous was the only known support in the state at that time. These professionals agreed the drinking was done to cover up the feelings and emotions as well as being able to "fit in" with society. This frontier mentality, combined with the belief that everyone who joins A.A. has a wonderful life, and everything is now back to "normal".

Five years into my sobriety my transsexuality became an issue so strong it needed to be dealt with. Though the chemicals were removed, and I became extremely active in the program, my transsexuality was apparent. I was attending the university where the state psychology department was located. I spoke with the chairman of that department to find out what support or action could be taken in that community. He said, "These were issues for textbooks only!"

I continued searching society for support and service, but to no avail. I continued to maintain my sobriety for another three years, and then I found what I was looking for, two TV/TS support groups here in the "valley of the sun", here in the southwest. Both of these groups were active on a local and national level, and with their encouragement and support, I am now active in these groups.

My sponsors in A.A. have both noted the good positive change in me and in my life. My life is better now and more fulfilled. My sponsors do not agree with the method of change or the action I'm taking, but they support what ever it takes for a person to be the best person he or she can be, and to be at peace with themselves. My sorority sisters also agree with this philosophy.

I would like to extend my hand and support to April Daize as well as anyone else who might need it. I know what it's like going it alone, and having no support available. It's a good feeling to know you're not alone, or unique. I look forward to being of service, and passing on my experience, strength, and hope to others. I thank you and my new "sisters" in the valley for being there for me. The only way I can repay this debt of gratitude is to be there for someone else.

-- Jennifer K. (AZ)

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Response to Merissa's editorial in #55

Dear Editor,

As an editor myself, I understand with clarity your position. I want to be one of those people who hurls no darts, but provides some "Warm Fuzzies". Editors need them too. I know!

Your editorials in issue 55 are RIGHT ON! You set forth a balanced and positive position well worthy of being supported. If symbiotic synergism is to work, it will take efforts such as yours to get off the ground and on course. You are solidly on the right course. Keep a thick skin and keep doing what is right for ALL OF "OUR COMMUNITY".

I smiled at your description of Tri-Ess and how at times it and some of it's people go a bit past "infra-red". It is true. Some of us might be the recipient of a compliment to be euphemistically called "ultra conservative". In some ways, I could be so categorized. Although this is the case, I was one of the "advisors" who counseled more openness which led to the membership poll which solidly reaffirmed the "Heterosexual Only" position of Tri-Ess. You see, I have no personal reservations at all about a person who is homosexually inclined or even less reservation at all about a person who is transsexually inclined participating as a full member of the sorority. But, I am a minority. As a leader, knowing the will of the majority is my responsibility. Further, as a leader with knowledge of the will of the majority, it is my responsibility to facilitate that will in so far as I can without violating my personal values and ethics. In the case of a conflict between my values and ethics and the will of the majority, It is my responsibility to forsake the position of leadership and move on elsewhere. I am comfortable in Tri-Ess. I am comfortable in a position of some minor influence in the organization. I am also wonderfully comfortable in IFGE.

Another thing in your editorial about SSS gave me a chuckle, made my face a bit red, and deserves comment. Regrettably, we have our zealots and those who are themselves unclear as to what it is Tri-Ess is trying to be. I think you put our position really clearly in focus and in stating one more time your personal position, you made yourself more than abundantly clear for anyone with a bit more than a profoundly retarded mental capacity to see. I commend your honesty by saying you are not a member of SSS because you aren't eligible. I wish you were eligible.... not by way of a change of your personal orientation, but by reason of a more tolerant attitude of most of our members. Yet, as an individual, I have the right to believe differently from the majority of the membership, but as a leader in the organization, I support the will of the majority. In this vein too, I wish all those who claim membership in SSS were as candid as you about how they really identify themselves and how they feel. I fear there are many who might "just be a bit less than honest" about this specific issue. They are the exception, I believe. But, they are there for sure. We don't want anyone to keep the impression so many have that we think we are some sort of elegant ladies without fault. No, we are all too human... just like those who carp and critique us harshly. There are times when we deserve to be popped on the fanny and with 'elan, hopefully, accept those times when we are stabbed in the back.

You are correct in the "our community" concept. Perhaps I experience a measure of "homophobia" because my one wife used my being a CD to hurt me indescribably when she chose to divorce me some years ago, telling the world I'd turned "queer"! Even the wrongful idea of 'guilt by association' stirs up a negative feeling inside making me append the term to my persona. This is almost a knee jerk reaction on my part, I realize, but I own it until I can dispel it. We are, all of us 'ATYPICAL" people, a community.... once we get it together. We are a community of necessity, for it is only by our banding together any of us ever can hope to be free to be who, how, and what we really are by nature. IFGE is one small step for the few of us involved in it, but ONE GIANT LEAP for humankind. I want it to succeed.

Take heart. Follow your heart. The thorns along the way really are there to give added appreciation to the beauty of the ROSES!

-- Jaye R. (TX)

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Dear Editor,

I know that you are interested in readers' reactions to various columns and special features. The quality of the articles selected to appear and their contents do you--and all of us--proud. I am especially impressed with the writing of Jolynne White, whose columns have served as a beacon and guideline. Her writings have made me realize that there is so much more to my femininity than even I had envisioned.

Now to my second commendation. I know that you have an advertiser who "delivers" in overabundant measure. Inspired by her columns, I responded to her advertisement and she agreed to accept me as a client. I scheduled several days in New York with the primary purpose of working with her to help me to develop my feminine side. During the period I spent with her, she translated desire into reality, taking a clumsily made-up person and transformed that drab creature into a stunningly attractive woman. She taught me more in less than 15 hours than I had learned in my long life. More importantly, I emerged from my sessions a better human being as well as a more feminine one. What she taught me about makeup, color coordination, compatible dressing and the other exterior facets of femininity remain with me to be perfected with each passing moment I can spare. What she taught me about joy, freedom and belief I shall nurture and try to perfect with every breath.

Again, congratulations for your magazine--our magazine I have come to believe--and for your tireless labor on our behalf.

-- Tricia (Wash. DC)

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Response to Sheila Kirk's letter in #54

Dear Editor,

Just a few lines to tell you people how much I have enjoyed "Tapestry". It took quite a while to find. There are few publications around that address the real needs of our community. I was very put off by most of the garbage that is currently offered through the mails. In my view crossdressing has little to do with some of the attitudes and behaviors expressed in many of these magazines.

It was refreshing to sit down and read some material that is relevant and intelligently written. The texts often explain to me questions that have bothered me for years. It's good to know that I'm not alone and that other people in this situation lead "normal" productive lives.

A few words about Dr. Kirk's project. I think it is a wonderful idea. As the Dr. points out in the article, most of us started experimenting in our early teenage years. To me, even now, it was unexplainable. it was simply something that I did without much forethought or pondering. I won't bore you with the details, but it was very pleasant. The point is, that something very significant happens in this timeframe and Dr. Kirk's research may just turn up what really happens in a youngster's mind when he "crosses the bridge".

Of course, one of the main problems facing this project is getting people to come forward. It would seem this would be something that a family would try to cover up. Especially if the father is an "Archie Bunker" type. (It's a very common attitude.) It would seem that the mother of a single parent family would be the more likely person to come forward. Of course this is contrary to the discipline (or is it 'protocol') of Dr. Kirk's proposal. It might be interesting to determine if crossdressing runs in families. Research with these youngsters might offer a clue. Of course, this might also be difficult, inasmuch as being a transvestite was something that was usually kept very much hidden from public view. Nowadays public attitudes seem to be softening a bit with many people regarding crossdressers more as curiosities that with revulsion. Ah.... progress!

-- J.W.

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Dear Editor,

Some random musings on harmony!

It takes more than one note to make music, more than one melodic line to make harmony, more than one leitmotif to make a great opera.

Most of the world's great operas are written in languages I can't speak. But

that hasn't diminished my enjoyment of them one bit. The passions, the humor, the excitement, the emotions, all come across through the sheer skill of the performers, regardless of the language. I've never yet made it through the third act of MADAME BUTTERFLY without the tears welling up in my eyes. The words don't matter; it's what comes from the performer's heart that reaches the soul of the listener.

I can't understand the words of the transsexual, but that doesn't mean I can't appreciate the beauty of the song or share the joy and pain of the lyrics. Gays and lesbians also sing a different song than I, but the pride and the hope are there for all the world to see and hear. It's the same song we all sing, albeit in different keys and voices.

Soprano, tenor, bass, baritone, mezzo, contralto...it takes all these voices to make harmony. When each is shouting to be heard above the others, all we have is noise, and no one will listen. When we harmonize in the voice we were given to work with, we have music, a thing of beauty.

-- Donna E. Mobley (NM)

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Dear Editor,

It has been my pleasure to meet several of you over the past few years, and it has also been my pleasure to have formed some very strong and loving friendships in our community.

What I would like to say to this world-wide forum cannot be simply stated since ours is certainly a confusing and definition-difficult situation. We, for our own various reasons, need the time to express and enjoy our own transitions from masculinity to femininity. We each approach these differently, and with different passions. We each face society with varying desires. We all do have one common achievement in the personal joy that the transition brings us, no matter the duration of that transition.

Speaking with several of my sisters recently, there have been some wonderful moments of expression that included 'self-worth achievement', 'release from shyness', 'a new perspective of what women must contend with every day', 'a closeness of spirit between sisters', and a sharing of love and respect'. None of these are easily obtained, none of these are held without personal openness and caring.

We as a community are questioned for our actions. We as a community are struggling to gain acceptance. Yet, we see from other organizations the struggles that are required to be open and live the lifestyle that we personally wish. The gay/lesbian community has a hard time understanding our lifestyle and, like society in general, has so often asked, "Why do you do this?"

I would like to share with you a close sister's response to that question.... "Our crossdressing or transgender behavior is not something that we just woke up to try, but has been something deeply felt within ourselves. It is something that each of us has struggled with for a long time, until finally we were able to say to ourselves, like many in the gay community, I have this need to be honest with myself to make me a whole person. I must for my own sense of worth explore the options that may be available to me, and I must confront the fears rather than hide in the dark. It is never easy to confront one's self, but when a person can be honest and forthright there are rewards never imagined. Not all of us are ready or will ever be able to live totally in another mode but the chance to participate, to find the sisterly love and caring that abounds in our community is among the finest of human traits."

I would hope that we as a community continue to allow our sisterhood to expand and learn to share this journey with others. As one friend said, "As people we really must have great fortitude to be able to stand in pants and ties, yet be able to wear skirts and heels. To reach for a closer bonding between the proverbial battle of the sexes, which diminishes this battle to skirmishes and eventually, hopefully peace between the genders and openness for all humankind."

Dr. Ruth Westheimer recently wrote a piece entitled 'Women Know How To Fight' which refers in part to women in the military and their need for equal treatment. She ends her article with, "Women are demanding equal rights, and most deservedly are getting them. But, with rights come equal responsibilities. Until these too are conferred, I don't believe men will ever consider women their true equals." The point that I would like to make to our community is that we as individuals must work hand in hand to show responsibility, to act with consideration, develop dialogue that is both explanatory and positive while encouraging equal rights for ourselves and all others. We as a community must share our resources, our hearts and our selves to gain respect, responsibility, and equality.

Our efforts, crossdressed or as our boy-selves, must reach for growth that allows us to enjoy a lifestyle that makes us whole. We need the self-worth, the equality, and the responsibility, and the love that openness brings. We need each other to gain and promote the good that there is in this lifestyle. It means that we take the responsibility to present our world in dignity, grace, and compassion to all who will listen. Freud may have said, "physical sex is destiny", but let us say, "It's the heart that speaks loudest, hear my song." I am glad for who I am and I am glad for who you are. We are a fortunate group of people for we are overcoming the stereotype and we are melding our souls into the oneness called humanity.

-- Kerri Reeder (NH)

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Dear Editor,

After about fifty years of inner turmoil, including bouts with frustration, alcoholism, depression and other stressful conflicts, I think I have finally - FINALLY - come to terms with my crossdressing.

That desire to look, act, and feel like a woman, yet not be one, has caused serous problems in my life. There was the early termination of what was a promising military career, two divorces, much furtive sneaking about and the untotalled cost of too many purges. In addition there was the ever-lingering fear that someone would find out and expose me.

Those years have had their terrifying experiences beginning with what I recall as my very first attempt at crossdressing. It was during my earliest school years and I had secretly put on a little girl's winter boots, only to find I couldn't get them off when it came time for me to go home. That was a long time ago, but I still recall the panic of the boy-wanting-to-be-girl and very much afraid of being seen.

Obviously, it ended well enough because my parents did not find out, and to my knowledge, they never knew of my crossdressing over all those years.

Anyway, I got through my adolescence in the usual manner for one who liked to wear his sister's or his mother's clothes. These practices became habits and ultimately left me sexually inadequate unless erotically stimulated by the touch or thought of lingerie. I felt I had to mask these femme desires by creating a macho-male facade; be tough, be aloof, be indifferent to others. One way to suppress my desires especially appealed to me; I would join the Marines! That's really macho!! I adopted and reflected a new image - a leader of men; made rank quickly, solidified my future and earned respect. all of that was erased when I was found dressed as a woman; I was discharged and instructed not to come back.

I was determined to never again risk my livelihood on getting caught "en femme", and so it has been. However, my marriages suffered - a first wife who could not accept my crossdressing at all, and a second wife who shared her closet, offered makeup and wardrobe tips, gave Joanna gifts at special times like birthdays and Christmas, and frequently shopped for my makeup and clothing as long as I dressed as a male during those ventures. I like to think that second marriage would have succeeded if we had known of the many support groups available to us. As it was, she could not go the miles that are required of a crossdresser's wife. We are still friends, love each other, but cannot share life.

Anyway, here I am; a second-year subscriber to Tapestry, much more aware of our society and wanting now to do something for our future. I live alone and dress "en femme" nearly every day even if it's only casual; jeans and sweater. I enjoy household chores, am a good cook and have a fairly acceptable taste for fashion. I wish I were more passable, and maybe I am, but the possibility of being read makes me nervous.

I envy the young CD's of today who have the support and encouragement of groups like IFGE, the liberal public acceptance of our society and the future which is theirs. I can't think of anyone of my age who wouldn't arouse suspicions if he had his ears pierced; yet young people today do it frequently. Too much of my life has been lost to old traditions, ignorance and peer pressure. What years I have left should be spent helping others, and I vow to do that, but most of all, I will spend them in the enjoyment of my femininity and getting the most pleasure out of being Joanna.

-- Joanna E. (MA-1837)

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Dear Editor,

After living with this "problem" since childhood, until today as a 45 year old, it is reassuring to know that all of you are out there, and that it isn't "just me".

Since this "thing" within me did not disappear when mother died in 1963, and I no longer had her continue with my "training". The "other person" within me (regardless of who was responsible for putting "her" there) did not disappear when I was married finally in 1982. But oh, has it caused me trouble since. You see, ladies, I thought one of the by-products of getting into the married state was that, invariably, this would "make me become a normal person", like everyone else. Oh, wrong wrong wrong! In retrospect, how a relatively intelligent person like me could have had such an illogical, incorrect notion like that, still astounds and stupefies me.

My wife, of course, is furious and hurt, that I did not have the honesty and faith and trust in her to have told her of my childhood and it's "peculiar aspects" before we were married. That's on the one hand. On the other, however, she has said to me that, had she known about Frieda Camille and all the rest of it, she very much doubts whether she would have agreed to our marriage. And you know, I do genuinely feel guilty, and intensely regret not having told my wife everything before we married. Too late!

I had no intention of going into any of this, since I have always been a very "personal" and private kind of individual. But, I am at the point where I just can't tolerate this alone anymore. I need to share this state of mind and body with somebody else before I disintegrate. I am a good, nice, intelligent, gentle, caring person, and, like all of you out there, I don't like to feel bad about myself. I genuinely want to reach out and contact others like me because I cannot be swamped any longer by these sentiments of being alone in this state of body, state of mind, well, whatever.

Thank you for being there.

-- C.A.S. (NY-2413)

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Dear Editor,

Have been reading issue #55. You people certainly do produce a quality publication. I like the new mailbag feature. Please keep this in future issues. It's really nice to read what other people are thinking. Love the inside humor in the cartoons. Thank God there are some people around who don't take themselves too seriously. (P97 is a real howl.) Really enjoying the many thoughtful and insightful articles. The editors have done a fine job of including various points of view, while remaining very objective overall.

Most of all, for me at least, this magazine has been a great source for sorting things out in my own mind. I can recall a speech by John Denver, that seems to coalesce very well the spirit of the Tapestry. In the talk the singer made one point, "Know who you are, it's all you have." This is a common thread that runs through all of the articles. Keep up the good work.

-- J.W. (PA)

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Dear Editor,

After I saw you at the Texas T-Party, things happened that I just had to share with you.

THE TRIP BACK WAS WILD. On the way to the airport the van driver kept telling me how beautiful I was, and when we stopped, he grabbed me and gave me a big kiss in front of the other people arriving at the airport.

After escaping from him, I checked my luggage, and was told to go to gate 32 for the flight to Houston - the first leg of my trip back. Well I found gate 32, and noted that it was marked "Houston". I had some time and since I had not had lunch, I had a beer and a turkey sandwich at the center lunch counter. I noted several of

the wives and husbands that had been at the T-Party. They were flying back home "straight".

When it came time to board, I found my seat near the back of the crowded plane. Just before the plane was ready to leave, they announced over the speaker system that someone had boarded and was on the wrong plane. This plane was going to Hobby airport in South Houston, and they were supposed to be going to the Houston International airport in North Houston. When I checked my ticket, I discovered that the person was me, so I grabbed my carry on bag and coat out of the overhead and fled the airplane just before they closed the doors.

When I got back to the boarding ticket counter, the lady there said that my plane had left 20 minutes earlier from the next gate, and she couldn't get me back home to Pueblo, Colorado until the next day. OH HELL!!, I thought.....I could have cried. Here I was, stranded 1200 miles from home, wearing a black and white dress, with no luggage. It was already headed home. On top of that, if I waited another day, I would miss work and be in deep trouble with our new boss.

After the initial panic, I decided to see how close to home I could get. Fortunately, there was a later flight to Houston International. On this flight there was another T-Party person. She was flying dressed to Boston. We walked across the airport and I caught the connecting flight to Denver and I was just able to catch the last commuter flight to Colorado Springs which is 40 miles north of where I live. Just before I left Houston, I called my father to come and pick me up at the airport and drive me home. Yes, my father does know about me, and he was a welcome sight to see that night. I got home, exhausted, about 11:00 p.m. and made it to work the next day.

During lunch, I drove out to the Pueblo airport to get my luggage. It had come in the night before. A lot of people lose their luggage when flying. In my case, it was the other way around.

Shirley K. Knight (CO-0494)

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Remarks from the wife of a crossdresser

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest many of the different letters and articles written by wives, significant others, helping professionals, etc., on the subject of crossdressing and how it affects relationships between husbands and wives. I feel that your magazine provides a valuable forum for those of us who want to better understand crossdressing in the hopes of helping to maintain or achieve a more meaningful relationship.

In my particular situation, I found that reading worthwhile magazines such as 'Tapestry' and books such as Dr. Peggy Rudd's 'My Husband Wears My Clothes', and Virginia Prince's 'The crossdresser and his wife', answered most of my questions and with the help of support groups, my husband and I were able to come to a better understanding of crossdressing and how to make our relationship work.

My husband first told me about his crossdressing about three years ago. In that time we had been married for almost 25 years and had raised two daughters - one at that time was in college and the other a senior in high school. Although I was not cognizant of gender conflicts at that time, I had watched some talk shows on transvestism and was not totally unaware of the phenomenon.

Like many wives, I experienced in varying degrees the emotions that are to be expected:

FEAR -
- Is my husband going to have a sex change?
- Is my husband a homosexual?
- What about the children?
- What is going to happen to our marriage?
- What did I do wrong?
- What if he runs into hostility while out?
- What about his job?

ANGER -
- Why wasn't I told about this before we married?
- Why is this happening to me?
- Why do you have to dress up like a woman anyway?
- Why do I have to worry when you go out?

RESENTMENT -
- Why are you spending so much money on clothes?
- Why must you attend so many activities?
- Why do you spend so much time on this activity?
- What about my interests? My needs? My emotions?!!!

EMBARRASSMENT -
- What about our family and relatives?
- What about friends, business associates?
- What if the neighbors find out?
- What if he is ridiculed or laughed at?

To help us make sense out of all this, we decided to write to a talk show which had published a telephone number and see if we could get help. We decided not to go to a psychiatrist until we had made contact with a support group. My phone calls to local mental health clinics revealed very little awareness in our community of the phenomenon. One suggestion - just let my husband enjoy his sexual fantasies! Our library had only a couple of books (psychology textbooks) which simply listed transvestism as a sexual disorder sandwiched somewhere between peeping toms and shoe fetishists!

After a few months, however, with the help of the talk show transcript, we found a national support group (Tri-Ess) and later a local support group (ETVC). Although very nervous, eventually my husband went to a support group meeting and met other crossdressers for the first time. He was in seventh heaven! I joined him at this activity a few days later and was amazed at the sensitivity and caring of the members of the group.

Within weeks, my husband and I found ourselves surrounded by loving people who answered our questions, referred us to appropriate books and articles, and made us aware that we were not alone and that we could develop that sustaining relationship we desired.

We have found that for us to make our relationship work, we needed to communicate and compromise. I was scared when I found out my husband was going out late at night dressed to a local mall to walk around the parking lot (to hear his high heels!). When he realized my fear, he stopped, and instead we attended local support group meetings in protected environments (where he could also hear

his high heels!).

I realized in time that he could not "cure" his crossdressing. Making him stop would be unfair and cruel, so we compromised. He can attend several activities a month, but not so many that I feel slighted. We compromise on how much he can spend on clothes, traveling, etc., how much time he can be involved in activities. He reciprocates by taking me to dinner more, helping more with work around the house, and has given me valuable advice concerning makeup, clothes, etc.

In many ways, I feel the wife of a crossdresser has gained a wonderful friend and confidant in her husband's femme self. When there is a problem, we talk it out and try to come to an acceptable compromise.

We certainly have not solved all our problems, but we both understand that this is not an easy situation to resolve and when there is a problem, we talk it out and try to come to an agreement. We go from day to day and keep the lines of communication open. In this way, we hope to strengthen and enhance our relationship.

(Donna's Wife)

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Dear Editor,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for publishing the 'Tapestry', which I first began reading last Fall. It has helped me greatly to understand a part of me that I knew existed, but for many years did not understand. By that I mean I had feelings inside of me that I didn't know why I had them or what they meant.

I have been attracted to women's clothing since I was around four or five years old, but was unable to fathom why. I knew from that age that I was different from other boys my age. I liked and played sports, especially ice hockey. I have been involved with hockey for more than 25 years, as a fan, player, coach, manager, league executive, and as a writer. (I am presently writing a book on hockey.) However, I found that I understand women better than men, and so have had more female than male friends. I also found I liked and was proficient at things like sewing, doing makeup, cooking, and other things many associate with women.

I began crossdressing when I was very young, mainly out of curiosity and wonder as to what I would look like in a dress. And yet, it was not sexual desire that compelled me to do this. I just felt that women's clothes looked better on me than the average macho men's sportswear my father dressed me in. I liked bows and frills better than sportshirts. There seemed to be more freedom and variety in women's clothes. Naturally, at that time, all this scared the hell out of me. What was wrong with me, I wondered. Why was I not interested in cars and mechanics like other young men my age?

I began to wonder if I was a failure as a man... among other things. I knew I wasn't gay, and found pornography to be boring. There was, it seemed, a second persona living quietly inside of me, emerging only in the most private moments. I kept finding books on transvestites, and found myself fascinated by crossdressing, yet not really in a position to do anything about it. I also found that I liked reading women's fashion and bridal magazines, and that I would look a women to see how they did their makeup, their hair, and how they wore their clothes.

In 1974, on a bet by a female social worker friend, I was challenged to go to a Halloween party dressed as woman. I took her up on her bet, and lo and behold, when I went to the party no one recognized me. My long red hair had been curled with a curling iron, and my friend did an excellent job on my makeup and jewelry. For the first time I felt like a complete person. I felt this warm beautiful feeling inside of me I'd never felt before. One of my friends told me I looked better as a woman, more natural, than as a man. This really shook me up. When I got home that night, I dreaded taking off my makeup and my dress. I felt as if I could stay that way forever.

For many years I dressed only on occasion, and almost always in private. I was married twice, and was six years into my second marriage before I revealed my feminine side to my wife. I spoke freely about my needs and feelings, and she accepted and respected how I felt. As a result, I now have a much clearer understanding of myself, and am far happier than I have been for most of my life. What was for so long a fantasy is now a reality.

I now dress not because I have to, but because I want to. I love my femininity, and treasure the fact that it is mine to feel and explore. To me it is more than just wearing a skirt, a bow blouse, a wig, makeup and jewelry - it is a state of being, a way to project my inner self.

For many years I've been a man with a feminist attitude. Macho, or seeing macho attitudes sickens me. If men could try and understand women's feelings and attitudes, this planet would be a much better place for us all to live.

Sabrina B. (CAN)

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Dear Editor,

I enjoy the articles in your journal very much, particularly as they give me an outside slant on my relationships with women. They also give me a further insight into my own feminine being, not from a doctor's or clinic's point of view, but from women who have tread the difficult anxiety ridden path I have walked along myself.

If I applied what I know now to my most trying times 15 years ago, I doubt I would have done things much differently. I would not have done things differently not because what I did was right, but because of my idealism, and sense of loyalty to my family and to my wife and kids.

However, I do realize now that unless you have an extremely understanding wife, it is very difficult for her. It is a constant source of anxiety, worry, and fear for her to have another "woman" in the house, her husband who may be planning a sex change and taking the many steps towards it or may be planning (she thinks, in both cases) to have sex as a woman with a man. Certainly many of us have a bi-nature so that potentially we can be happy as a man or a woman, but one path is closed off to us we may seek the other path slowly, but with reluctance and fear.

As my wife said, you are trying to lead two lives, which in the short lifetime available to us, inevitably causes us to short change our jobs, our sleep, health, and our relationships with our wives. What wives do not clearly see at first is our extremely feminine personalities, interests,

and attitudes which are our being. "I am what I am." We can no more change our being than they can. We can, however, control to a degree the frequency and intensity of our appearances, but this is not major behavior modification, which I came to realize after seeing 8 or 10 doctors and clinics.

I liked Dr. John Money's book on sex and gender, 'Venuses and Penises'. He gave advice in there which is rather technical but concise: 1) Homosexuals, transsexuals, bisexuals and transvestites have an immutable very serious gender transposition.

2) There is a class of bisexuals called "mentalistic bisexuals" whose fantasies are not put into action.

3) There is no known cure for TVism, TSism, homosexualism, bisexualism, and for that matter, heterosexualism.

4) Treatment for transvestites (he calls them more broadly transvestophiles, since crossdressing is only one of their symptoms) must be supportive and ameliorative, but the TV must find a "modus vivendi" as a TV. This is where the Tapestry and your other publications and outings do a super job.

I am trying to expand my modus vivendi. I only wish I was living in Boston.

– Joyce F. (CAN)

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Dear Editor,

I was very impressed with the articles by Kyelle Blake, and looked up the Biblical references she showed. In the process, I came across something that may be of interest.

John 7: 10-18 Jesus at the Festival of Shelters. "After his brothers had gone to the festival, JESUS ALSO WENT: HOWEVER HE DID NOT GO OPENLY, BUT SECRETLY. The Jewish authorities were looking for him at the festival. "Where is he they asked? There was much whispering about him in the crowd. "He is a good man," some people said. "No," others said, "he fools the people." But no one talked about him openly, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities.

There might be a lesson here. The lesson is that we often go to festivals not openly as our given identity but secretly in our second identity, and the rewards can be many. People don't really know what our given identity is, and we are showing our second identity which secretly covers up our own given self. We are in the image of God, but we do it from a secretive standpoint. We can show hospitality even amongst those of low acclaim or we can share our inner selves with those of high acclaim, but we are doing it secretly and know one can point a finger and ruin your given image because we are using our second identity.

– M.S.J. (MN)

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Couples

Dear Editor,

To continue where we left off in conversation at the Texas T-Party:

Salespeople like to say every conversation is a sales pitch - one person getting his thoughts to be accepted by another person. Others say every conversation is a power play - one person having the upper hand over the other. All of us live our lives conversing with others most of our days. The ongoing power struggle is an unconscious part of our lives, with our bosses, friends, and family.

Husbands and wives because of their closeness, physically and emotionally, generally set up perimeters to ease the pressure of constant power struggling. She will cook, he will take out the garbage, she will be responsible for the children, he is responsible for the car, and so on. However, some areas are left open to allow some interactive struggling for excitement, challenge and enjoyment - like what movie will we see this weekend?, etc. Then there are the situations that come up that do not have defined categories. In a good marriage communication and negotiation come into play (and always a power struggle) and an agreement is reached. Because in crossdressing there is a conflict of interests (he likes it, she doesn't) there is a power struggle. Again in a good relationship, communication and negotiation can usually work things out. Unfortunately, because of his strong feelings to dress and her societal upbringing generating a feeling of negativity to this action there is a major power struggle. Generally after years of denial and repression he is like a kid in a candy store- once allowed the freedom, he heads right for the other extreme. If a happy marriage is to continue however, he must come out a winner, because he is unable to change his deep seated feelings to crossdress.

Once he has come out in the power struggle on top and she has retreated, it sets a precedent for it to continue in that direction - he going after more time and freedom in trying to meet his desires and her losing more and more ground in limiting or stopping it. In this environment it is natural for her to build up a great amount of hostility and resentment.

Now in his normal mode of eventually looking for a group to become associated with to receive information, instruction, and validation, he generally wants her to come along. If she does,and a great many wives do, she may eventually be asked to join a "Significant others" group. Now the significant others group will generally meet without the crossdressers being present. Here we have 5-10-15 -20 people who individually have been losing ground in an important area of their lives, getting together - it would only be natural for them to find new strength in numbers and reenter the power struggle with new vigor. Hence significant others groups by their nature will create problems for the crossdresser.

Now, crossdressers do quite well in a support group and their significant others should also derive enormous benefit from peer support. So, what can be done to make this work well for everyone? The most logical and easiest thing would be to have a professionally trained counselor act as a moderator, keeping an emphasis on the positive and reducing the negative to a minimum. However, a great many crossdressers have had bad experiences with professional counselors due to their limited knowledge of crossdressing, and reject this idea vehemently. As an alternative, a rap group dedicated to the subject of relationships might be set up. This group would consist of significant others with or without their partners, but encouraging them to take part. This could also include single crossdressers looking for help with new relationships, and family members of crossdressers. The choice of this moderator is crucial to the success of the group, and if there is no one in the organization capable (extremely capable) to do this, and understanding clergyman or someone from another crossdressing organization might be considered. A local

professional who has a desire to learn more about the subject might be ideal. Someone who can put the crossdressing in its proper perspective, and not be overwhelmed by it would be a good choice. We have found counselors who in building their private practice get involved with groups knowing they will be getting referrals and clients from those groups.

Lynda Frank
Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960

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Dear Editor,

I recently spotted Tapestry Issue #54 in a bookstore and bought it. That was the best ten bucks I ever spent!! I have been "in the closet" for so long I had no idea there were so many out there like me!! I've read your editorial over and over again (as well as the rest of the Journal) and love it. You did an outstanding job on that letter. And the speech at Sheila Kirk gave at the convention was excellent!! I wish I could have been there, but had no idea it was happening.

Let me give you a short history of myself. When I was four (in 1937) my mother and sister dressed as a girl for Halloween. After Halloween my sister wouldn't play with me unless I put on her clothes. I got used to wearing dresses at an early age, and liked it. Then, my dad caught me dressed, playing dolls with my sister, and beat me with a quirt. I was seven, hurt, confused, and everything that goes with it. I went into hiding and stored my skirts and dresses in a waterproof box in a canyon up in the hills behind the house we lived in.

I stayed in "hiding" until I met my wife (of 17 years). Someone gave her a box of clothes and in it was a dress that looked my size. I told her, "That would fit me!" She said it wouldn't, so I put it on to prove it. We laughed at the time, but I kept dressing in front of her until she gave her approval. I love her for it....dearly!!! Occasionally my wife with take me for rides in the car...and I love it. Once in a while I'll go into a store to buy things like cigarettes, pop, etc. P pass as a woman well at a distance, and have been whistled at a few times, but I have rough hands and a crooked nose I got from my dad's beatings, so I'm questionable up close.

So much for my younger days. Let's just say, "I'm damned glad they're over!!!" Now I need to deal with today and tomorrow. I want to know more and more of where I can go to see and talk to people like me, and how, I myself, can "Be All I Can Be", and best of all be all I want to be. I am 56 years old now, and want to do something. I would love to go to a convention, and be able to talk to people about my femininity, and my brutal, battered childhood. I need someone to listen, and hear how others started to dress. I would dearly love to be a sister, and to have sisters.

Dixie Louise Sierras
Box 414, Nuevo, CA 82367

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Dear Editor,

This is to advise your readers that I will be phasing out GENDER WORKER (a.k.a. GENDER CONSULTANTS) over the next 1 1/2 years so that I might formally close its doors and finally retire from the TV/TS community in late 1991. This will make it precisely 20 years that I have been serving the TV/TS community since I first became actively involved as a resource worker, and would be a good time to prioritize my commitments, putting my wife and myself first for a change.

I also wish to tell your readers I am currently in the process of completing the first draft of my anthology of TS, TG and TV verse (rhyming poems, limericks and free verse) and I am still accepting further submissions. Thanks so much to all those who submitted pieces for inclusion. At present, I have included about 225 pieces from over 100 contributors in Canada, the USA and the UK. This project is extremely exciting as I have been entrusted with the raw emotions, attitudes and aspirations of a very rare group of people, and I hope to be able to share their perspectives and experiences with you, their sisters and brothers. These poems range from the tragic to the comic, the natural to the cultural, and the sexual to the spiritual. They reflect the gamut of human moods, encompassing despair and hope, confusion and enlightenment, disquiet and peace loneliness and companionship, cruelty and compassion, pain and joy. I have asked Kim Stuart to write the Foreword and I am fervently hoping IFGE will agree to publish my work as I would like to donate any profits to the Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund (or another fund if IFGE so chooses). So, if you wish to see my anthology in print, please write to IFGE and ask them to help me make this work available to you, the sisters and brothers of our community.

Rupert Raj-Gauthier
GENDER WORKER, Box 1224, Sta. A
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G7

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for sharing my "Hawaiian Honeymoon" story with the readers of Tapestry. I have received a number of very interesting and touching responses from our sisters as a result, and have made some very special pen-pals and friends.

I have a proposal. In case this is not already common practice among the various transgender groups within your network, I'd like to advocate the use of I.D. cards.

They are particularly useful in the event you are stopped by the police while cross-dressed (even for a broken tail light), or confronted by any official person in public. Seeing the term "gender dysphoria" in print, and realizing they may have to answer to a legitimate organization and your counselor (possibly in a court of law), will help dissuade the occasional Neanderthal from being tempted to vent their personal prejudice. Our sisters behind the wheel who carry such a card will drive with less distracting paranoia, and their loved ones will also be more at ease, not having to dread that phone call from the police station.

The card can be worded to suit the membership of each group. The person treating you could be a psychiatrist, a physician, a clergyman, or even the head of your group. The cards are easy to make, and certainly a worthwhile precaution.

Holly B.
c/o Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332,
Asheville, NC 28814

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Dear Editor,

In the past few months a whole new world of crossdressing has opened up for me. I have found a wonderful and

supporting SO who now knows my secret, and whom someday will be my wife, and I have discovered IFGE. These two events have had, and continue to have, a tremendous impact on my life.

Prior to these "historic" occasions, I was totally in the closet like so many of the readers of Tapestry. And, just like them, I battled feelings of guilt and loneliness. True, I knew that there were some organizations "out there" that catered to men who liked to dress up as women, but I didn't know who or where they were, and I assumed they were geared to female impersonators or drag queens and not to heterosexuals such as myself.

The feelings of relief and happiness I experienced when I finally came across IFGE and Tapestry must be similar to those experienced by many of your readers. The people in the crossdressing community are real people, genuine people, caring people and, of special importance to me, nice people. They are not weirdos or perverted.

As part of this wonderful discovery process, another phenomenon occurred that really surprised me. Whenever I read articles by and about our community, or see the photographs of the people and of the "coming out" events, I find myself thinking of them in the feminine sense. I don't think of men dressed as women, as I thought I might; I only think and feel how nice these women appear to be -- I would truly love to meet them and talk with them and get to know them.

Now that I know that our community exists and that it is truly a nice community, I read everything I can get my hands on. I have purchases several of the IFGE publications and have voraciously consumed them the day they arrived.

I have read with passionate interest, and not a little envy, about the Fantasia Fair, the IFGE Coming Together conventions, and the other "coming out" events. And I dream. And sometimes I act. Rondi (my GG significant other) and I will be attending the Texas T-Party.

I guess I have rambled on long enough for now. I have one foot out of the closet and wish to emerge even further, but only with my head held high. You, IFGE, and the rest of our community have shown me that I can, that my dream can become my reality. Even if nothing else happens, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for that.

Jan N. (CA-2210)

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Dear Editor,

As we in the military say, "Bravo Zulu!" To have such a comment extended you your behalf represents, in civilian terms, an exuberant WELL DONE! I am eminently impressed with the quality of your publication. The slick and professional journal arrived just days after I ordered it. I thank you!

As a woman who has been frantically clawing at the inside door of my closet, it was truly a special occasion to receive the TV-TS Tapestry. To describe the elation of finding out that there are others (and many) who are compelled to explore and conquer their feminine personas, is most difficult. Perhaps to say that knowing I (we) have sisters to turn to for support helps me stand tall and accept all of me as God made me.

Three weeks ago I took my first step toward the merging of my personas. After having made an anonymous call to a military counselling center (ran by civilians), I set up an appointment with a very nice woman (GG) who had absolutely no experience in gender issues. As you might well imagine, I was a bit apprehensive. I had no idea whether or not I was going to show up for that first meeting. I did. My counselor, though inexperienced with my issue, has assisted me, in just three weeks, in replacing on my tapestry a large portion of who I really am. Though that tapestry has yet to be shown, soon it will. I will continue in counselling for the next couple of months.

The major dynamics we're dealing with right now are the guilt and shame I have harbored for so many years. That guild is not for who I am or how I feel, but for the incredible shock and anxiety that revealing such news to my family would cause. Additionally, four and a half years ago I met and married a beautiful woman and we have a one-year-old son. She has absolutely no idea and even less of an inclination to accommodate the lifestyle which I must now pursue. It was unfair of me to think I could deny my own identity by marrying her. Neither her, my son (or me for that matter) asked or counted on this enigmatic change in the course of our lives. Though I love her, we could not go on as I must. That's a price I've reluctantly chosen to pay. The potential absence of my son from my life has yet to be resolved. If anything, he would be the only thing to rip the corner off my tapestry and throw it back into the closet; and do so without even knowing so.

I appreciate and respect each of the contributors to your journal and hope that, once I bust the closet door, I will have the opportunity to delight in frou-frou with many of you. God bless.

Joyce Diane C. (WA)

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Open Letter
About submissive transvestites:

My adopted name is priscilla, and i am a submissive transvestite. i am writing in the sincere hopes of establishing an open dialogue on the seldom addressed needs of those of us whose involvement in the transvestite world is "non-voluntary" in several senses of the word. My thoughts and opinions on the subject are by no means authoritative, but rather very subjective and based on many years of loneliness and pain resulting from my desires for enforced crossdressing.

i would like to begin with an apology, disclaimer, or whatever to my more egalitarian minded sisters. What i have to say here applies to me (and possibly to others who share this particular fantasy), and is in no way meant as an insult or indictment to those girls who derive such wonderful satisfaction from emulating and experiencing the joys of femininity. i can certainly relate to their deep appreciation of things feminine, and am admittedly envious of their options for self expression. To be able to experience the fulfillment of one's desires, whether alone or in supportive numbers must be wonderful indeed.

As a "submiss", such rewarding self-actualization is much more elusive. Although i have been very closeted about this aspect of my personality, my observations of the transvestite world such as it exists in media from pornography through psychological literature, lead me to believe that there is a certain universality of experience.

i'm sure anyone reading Tapestry is at least passingly familiar with the genre of "forced to dress" fantasies. A casual review of some of the "literature" (let alone rabid consumption of anything even remotely connected) reveals that we dream of worlds populated almost exclusively by women. The "world" may be the household, which is ruled by the Dominant Aunt, Spouse, Mother, Sister, Governess, etc. Or, it may be an estate, occupied by various Mistresses living in Female Dominated splendor. Sometimes it is the Sorority house, or the Women's prison, but it is almost always a Female domain. There are occasionally other male presences, but they are often either other transvestite slaves, or else nameless, faceless male Dominants, expressly there for purposes of humiliating the submissive heroine.

What all this means, is that peer group support is perhaps an impossibility. Please understand ladies, that in spite of my deep respect and admiration for who you are and what you stand for, for me the thought of sharing this wonderful secret with other males is almost totally out of the question. i suspect this to be generally true of other submisses as well, as evidenced by the lack of coverage of the topic in publications such as this one, as well as in the absence of support type organizations openly geared towards submissive crossdressers. It has occurred to me that this might be because the submissive elements may represent more "problem" areas of mental health, as opposed to the generally "healthy" diagnosis of transvestism, although i think differently. i would be interested in feedback on this element. i have been in therapy with a variety of therapists over the last five years, but so far have not really progressed. Would also be interested in hearing others' experiences with therapy concerning this topic, and specifically on the issue of the appropriateness of male vs. female therapists.

Two other observations lead me to believe that i am not just paranoid and acutely repressed in my thinking. The first is the quantity of fantasy stories along these lines. There are literally hundreds from over the years, with more being written every day. With such a tangible proof of the existence of other femmes like me, where are the "out of the closet" submisses who could be writing to share their experiences, strengths and hopes (to borrow a phrase from one of my other recoveries) in forums more legitimate than merely erotic reading material? Are we all still deep in our closets and tied with our own apron strings?

The second observation has to do with the concept of the professional Mistress, or Dominatrix, as it applies to submissive crossdressers. A central ingredient in the fantasy, is the "unwillingness" of the male to be feminized, and the power of the Woman who in fact does dominate and feminize him. To pay a Woman is to, in effect, "employ" Her to fulfill this intense desire. I see this as supply and demand at its capitalistic finest, with a faction of Women all too willing to exploit this extremely strong, and yet almost unattainable-in-reality fantasy. Somehow, the "unwillingness" factor gets lost for me, when i am paying for, and in fact purchasing the very treatment (am fantasizing about having "inflicted" upon me.

So, we don't seek each other out for support, and the option of filling our dreams in the marketplace is less than satisfactory to say the least. Most transvestites seem to agree on the rarity of finding a Woman who is supportive of their desires to dress in Women's clothing. Finding a Woman who, (for any reason other than monetary gain), will insist on it seems next to impossible. What then becomes of us, we who long for the opportunity to be feminized and turned into handmaidens serving the glorious Women we adore so much? How do we make our desires known without making them known, and how do we survive, always longing for something that seems to get further away the more we want it? i hope you have some ideas...

On rare occasions, i have seen an occasional mention of submissive crossdressing, explained away as an ego defending mechanism, whereby the thought that we like to dress in Women's things is so appalling that we've constructed this elaborate fantasy of being "forced" to do so to expunge the guilt. I personally find this simplistic, mean, and just plain untrue. But then it's possible too, that it works so well that of course i would feel that way.

Finally i would like to address the issue of why this subject isn't covered more in legitimate transvestite periodicals. Perhaps because of the intense frustration of the fantasies, the "pornographic" (i use the term respectful and grateful rather than critically) stories are often equally intense. These are not stories of a bunch of gals getting together to chat and dance and hug and cry and laugh etc. The slant is often equally straddled between the S/M world and the transvestite world, and the former seems to make people even more nervous than the latter. i sometimes wonder if there isn't prejudice in the transvestite community against the submissive transvestite, as a result of the less then favorable public relations image that accompanies her. Society might be almost ready for healthy, well adjusted men dressed tastefully as Women on talk shows, etc., but a man bound and in a maid's uniform, licking his Mistress's boots could set the cause back considerably.

There are also the sexual and emotional involvement issues to be considered. It is my feeling that, much the same is with voluntary crossdressing. It is both sexual and non-sexual at the same time. In many fantasies the maid/slave rarely or never has orgasm, and yet lives in a constant state of blissfully frustrated longing for the Woman she serves, ever further feminized by the denial of this last vestige of male experience she might have. Or, she may give her Mistress physical pleasure on a regular basis, and the frustration and humiliation she receives in return just serve to strengthen her resolve to be an ever better, ever more feminine slave. In a way that may not be apparent to those who do not feel this way, there is a real form of love there. The bond between Mistress and slave is continually deepened, with both reaching new levels of communication and understanding, unspeakingly and complimentarily meeting each other's needs. If this can ever be true in reality is a good question indeed. By definition there must be a Woman with the complimentary needs and desires, and i believe the scarcity of such Women contributes to the lack of information and experiences shared about this subject.

Although it is a very different condition, submissive transvestism still exists within the realm of the transvestite world, and it is therefore here that i turn for some feedback, ideas, etc. Perhaps there are solutions to this impossible seeming dilemma. i welcome your comments, observations, criticisms, etc.

-- Priscilla

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Response to Merissa's editorial #55

Dear Editor,

I was reading with great interest the editorial in issue 55 in Tapestry entitled "Three Short Editorials", and specifically the editorial called "My Workshop." I too think it is about time for our community to get the show on the road. We need to handle the various aberrations of society regarding our particular situation. Combining forces with the gay community and women's liberation would, without any doubt, enhance and contribute to our being able to handle legislation, and inequitable situations such as discrimination against the transgendered.

We are, in fact, a very loose-knit group as you state, and our first course of action MUST be to combine forces with ALL members of OUR community before venturing out and combining forces with another group. You did note however that combining forces, to whatever degree, with the gay movement and women's liberation may in fact help our community as we, as a group, have much to learn about an organized force that can get things done. We certainly can learn from their mistakes and their successes. If the willingness is there, and if only a few leaders in our community take action to bring the gender community together with the other movements, we will all be the winners.

There are always pitfalls though, that one must contend with, when venturing out and holding hands with another group with similar AND dissimilar interests as well. We must remember that they are NOT us. And we may not want to be considered them. In other words, we must grow as our own community and organization and not become an arm of another group. That group may be more interested in actions and laws that would be to their advantage, rather than to ours. In order to make things work, society must be brought together as one mind on a subject rather than clashing. What I am suggesting is we take the route of the women's movement which, although they have gotten things done, has made fewer enemies and has fewer opponents than the gay movement.

Although, as you said, we have an identity with the gay community, many (if not most) of our members are anything but gay; therefore I am not certain that we want to closely align ourselves with this group. There are also some militant and radical aspects of the gay community that may be an affront to us all. While scanning the paper last week, for example, I ran across an article by Mike Royko about gays bashing gays. I've heard of gay bashing and am wholeheartedly against that type of activity, but gays bashing gays is a bit sardonic.

It seems, according to Royko, that some militant homosexuals have come up with a new idea for improving their self-esteem, increasing political power. These militants claim to know the identity of many homosexuals who go through life posing as heterosexuals. In other words, those who stay in the closet. But, the militants want them to come out of the closet, whether they want to or not, and become visible members of what is known as the "gay community".

The homosexual militants are now using something called 'outing'. This means that if they have reason to believe, or even strongly suspect, that someone is homosexual, they reveal it in one of their newspapers, picket his residence, and make his sexual preferences public. That's where the word 'outing' comes from. They drag him out of the closet.

The point again is, we are our own community and we would do well to avoid very close alignment with other groups that may not hold completely with our views or we with theirs. We must examine ourselves very closely and see who we really are and what groups we are closest to. Remembering, that the general public's view of "that association", may well play a large part in their view of us, as well as what happens with future legislation.

I have been doing a lot of thinking on the subject of an activist group for the transgendered community and have come up with what I feel may be a good general plan (or at least the start of one) for this group. The views in the articles of course are mine and may not be true for the community as a whole. But as I said, it is a place to start. Once the input is in from the leaders in the various groups, as well as the transgendered group as a whole, it will be far easier to determine a platform and the issues for GAL (Gender Alternatives League) or whatever the organization might be named.

Although I originally had the idea of just getting out and getting the group started I no longer feel it is a task for one or for a handful of people. What is needed is an organization such as IFGE which has a broad network and following of groups and individuals as well as a publication arm to get the message out. I do not have such resources although I do have the desire.

I would be very interested in participating in and even coordinating such a venture. One problem in doing that may be my location and the location of IFGE and it's staff. The distance might prove to work against us in such an enterprise. On the other hand, tying together the two coasts as well as the midwest may also prove to be a very successful action in itself. Given the liberal attitude of California, ground gained here could radiate throughout the rest of the country.

The 60's brought us civil rights, the 70's and 80's brought us women's liberation and gay rights, and 1990 has seen the passage of civil rights for the physically and mentally handicapped. I sincerely feel that by the end of this decade we will see the gender movement gain on the political front. If we get started now, by 1993 we will see the onus of the psychiatric label of "mental illness" removed from the psychiatric manuals. By 1995 we can educate the public enough to consider the proper course for legislation. By 1997 we can see the passage of the Gender Rights Amendment (GRA).

Anyway, I have gone on enough. I leave the next step in your hands.

Cynthia H. (CA-1453)
National Coordinator
Gender Alternatives League (G.A.L.)

[Dear Cynthia: I wish you were at the 1990 'Coming Together' convention. You could have contributed greatly. Hopefully you will be in Denver, where we will continue to follow up on what we did this year. I wish you were there to hear Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie, Ann Maguire, and David Lafontaine. Read their transcripts in this issue. Repeat, read their transcripts in this issue.

You mentioned that the gay community has a lot more enemies than we do. That may be true, but they also have a lot more friends than we do, and they have accom-

plished almost infinitely more than we have to better their lives. We have many wonderful friends in the gay community, and we would do very well to be their friends as well.

You mentioned the passage of a Gender Rights Amendment by 1997. They've been fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment for 20 years without success, and that's just a simple matter of justice. If we had helped fight for the ERA, we might have considered a GRA, but....

One final comment. I like your acronym 'GAL', but I would ask you change it. We have a lot of brothers out there, and there are more coming out of the woodwork every day. Would you like to belong to an organization with the acronym 'GUY'? -- ED]

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POET'S CORNER:

ONE OF THOSE WE CALL A 'SHE'

When I take on my 'human' form
I'm requesting that I be,
Made into something quite enchanting
One of those kind we cal a 'SHE'.

I've watched those planetary creatures now
For many a cosmic span,
And observed just how the type called 'SHE'
Has progressed according to Galactic Plan.

Perhaps you should be reminded, too,
That many cosmic spans ago,
It was the 'SHE' who held the most respect
For nurturing what the 'HE' did sow.

Our first visit there confirmed the view
That this choice was bound to be,
A wise one for these creatures
But, alas! Kronos took sides with 'HE'.

The with the help of many Titans
The 'HE' took charge and said:
"You 'SHE' will tend our precious fire,
We 'HE' will hunt instead."

And so this format we observed
Through Cosmic spans galore,
Wondering when this tribe of 'SHE'
Would resent this lifelong chore!

We watched as Kronos finally
Tired and took another course,
And 'SHE' who had more time for speech
Became the master of discourse.

So as spans of matter came and went
These earthly creatures quickly bred,
To inhabit all their planet's space
And be held by lesser forms with dread.

We watched them with their greedy Science
Create comforts by the score,
But in terms of social progress
They were infants crawling on the floor.

Our fear became that unless the 'SHE'
Assumed their right and proper place,
And let intuitive nature become the guide
There would be no future for this race.

So, it's been decided by our Council
That from among us some will go,
And they've granted me my wish to be a 'SHE'
Before being beamed to earth below.

Of course this is not difficult
For such a master form of life as us,
Since for cosmic spans our minds have been
Androgynous - our 'form' mere cosmic dust!

Of course you'll never know we are among you
Working to correct the damage don,
So be nice to each new 'SHE' you meet -
'SHE' might just be - this Cosmic One!

-- Louise Catherine Milner (CAN-1787)

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POET'S CORNER:

(Edited from 'Lower Susquehanna News', Vol 2 No 3, published by Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter of Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Elsa Larson, Editor, P.O. Box 7412, York PA 17404)

CAN I TRUST YOU?

For most of my life,
I asked if I could trust you,
but the answer was, "No!"
Then, for years,
the answer was, "Maybe!".
Weary of "Maybe",
I thought you might be ready,
but heard, "What if ..."
were not your answers.
but my own fears.
So I shared myself with you,
And you accepted me as before
And I did not need my secret.
Of course, you were trustworthy.
It was I who could not trust.

-- ANON

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POET'S CORNER:

HAND OF MY SPIRIT

I came to know the touch
of a hand on my shoulder -
A hand which rested there
since before my birth -
A hand which had lofted me,
held my place, unknown to me -
A hand not of this earth.

I was unaware, this caress so light,
grip so firm
the cause of unimaginable delight,
yet I came to fee this firm
caressing touch envelop me.

A hand opening my heart and eyes
to feel and see existence,
locked in diffuse patterns
I call my life.

I came to know the touch
of a hand on my shoulder.
This touch reached through me
and joined me to the stars.
A touch bringing me life
where I thought I was with living.
A touch, a beginning, an end,
it lasted a breath and continues
with the unfolding of the cosmos.

I turned to see this touch laid on me
and there stretched an arm
from the black void of exquisite mystery.
What can, will, and will not be,
all circled on the swirling sands
of my androgyny.
As I strained to see, no gentle squeeze
mad its presence known.

I came to know the touch of a hand
on my shoulder.
And, it shook and rattled my bones;
marrow turned gelatinous, joints collapsed!
My skin dissolved, and fluid I
mingled with the primordial ooze.

It plucked me up anhydrous
and bore me on a wind.
My spirit blowing in a cosmic breeze
mingled amongst'
the simply profound.

And in reflux as I saw
where I was going, where I had been,
the hand formed me,
to where I was now.

I came to know the touch
of a hand on my shoulder.
With that touch, I knew,
I would grow no older
than my energy shared,
with the stars, the swirling sands,
and,
the breath of the air.

-- Kyndel Fay M. Kellis (AK-2087)

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POET'S CORNER:

TRANSMIGRATION

Somewhere, sometime - a part of me once lived,
And I know now that in this other place in time
A state of oneness was achieved
By which this other self rose above -
Beyond Good and Evil - shed also
The pettiness of gender conflict;
And this other one knew
The distance to each star,
Knew the planets, understood the ebb
An flow of life - from simple worm
Through metamorphosis to radiant butterfly;
What happened then, since you who read
These lines show understanding,
Was, alas, a time when all things
Throughout the world were judged
In terms of opposites;
Beauty: Ugliness - Heaven: Hell - and so on,
And those who lived among - between,
This dualistic view of world and life
and knew another world of being existed,
Were judged - Evil! Sorcerer! Witch!
Thus, my other's fate was sealed by fire and flame
And as such was left no trace;
How then, do I now know?
Because a happening took place -
Somewhere a babe was left to others
For its care and nurturing,
And from this long atavistic past
I have emerged - here to resume
My journey once again among mankind -
To view from dizzying heights once more
The wonders of this universe to unfold;
Set down for you; that you may recognize
Such timeless thoughts - in verse!
Yet, what can poets tell
From all their travels through
The countless passage of time?
Only this: that Soul knows no gender,
Has no shape, yet manifests itself
With each and every breath -
Through intellect; virtue; love;
And being so raises inner self
Beyond the earthly realm of being
To that higher state wherein -
Lies the ultimate - the perfection
of our endless human dream!

-- Louise Catherine Milner (CAN-1787)

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SPECIAL FEATURE

"BOSTON 1990"
'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION

REPORT: by Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Dir.

PERSONAL STORY (old-timer): by Renee Chevalier

PERSONAL STORY (first-timer): by Joanna Edlons

CONVENTION PHOTO ALBUM
Photographers: Margarita Riess (MR) (photo coordinator), Mariette Pathy Allen (MPA), Wendi Pierce (WDP), Wendy Parker (WSP), Renee Chevalier (RC)

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CONVENTION REPORT
by
Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Convention Director

I didn't hear too many complaints from the participants, so I'm assuming from the participant's point of view the convention was successful. I'm looking forward to reading their stories in their local newsletters and in the Tapestry. However, as the convention's director, I'll judge the success of the convention less on whether or not people had a good time, and more on whether or not it did it's job, which is to tend to the business of our community. So... was the convention successful? I don't know, and we won't know until next year. However, from my preliminary point of view the convention was outstanding, far exceeding my hopes.

I would like to give to you in outline form why I believe the convention was outstanding:

(#1) The numbers were good!

We had a little over 250 paid participants, with over 300 total participation. We paid our bills with enough left over for seed money for next year's convention. In other words, thanks to a reasonably good (can be much better) marketing effort, and the good work of Yvonne Cook (Finance Coordinator) and her staff, we finished in the black - for the first time. In the past we have had to rely on contributors to cover our short-falls, but now the convention is truly self-sufficient.

This is a very important development for the future of our community. The net income generated by programs is intended to be rolled over into the development of additional programs. Since the convention never had a net income, IFGE's never been able to sponsor new programs. One more convention like this one and IFGE's Programs Committee will have some mad money to play with, and everyone will benefit.

(#2) The attitude of the participants!

It seemed that during this convention, more than ever before, people understood what the convention was about. As heterogeneous as our group was (M-F & F-M CD's, M-F & F-M TS's, mental & medical professionals, wives, friends, hetero, gay, civilian, etc. etc.), there seemed to be a sincere sense of caring for each other, a respect for each other's differences, and an interest in each other's issues and needs. Above all, there was a very real willingness to put out some effort on behalf of others. This was exactly the kind of atmosphere that was going to produce good things for us all.

(#3) The hotel - minimal hassles, the staff - organized!

We had a great staff this year, and everything went off on time and without a hitch - that is, except on Saturday. (The hotel decided to schedule a wedding during the conven-

tion's busiest day. Confusion resulted, and unusual things happened - but that's another story.) It was such a joy to show up at our daily staff meeting and watch Bette Johnson (Convention Coordinator) do her thing, and sit back and watch our wonderful staff do their jobs. Our veterans (Bette, Yvonne, Sheila, and Robin) did their usual good work, but the people who really made the convention go so smoothly were our newcomers: Kay Metsker (Staff Coordinator), Jane Ellen and Frances Fairfax (Asst. Staff Coordinators), Shirley Kay (Registration), Margarita Riess (Photography coordinator), Donna Mobley (Audio/Visual), and Diane Ingram (Communications Coordinator).

(Besides doing a terrific job with the daily newsletters, I know for a fact Diane had a good time. Every time I walked by the newsletter, Diane was behind the computer giggling. She did, however, teach me something. She taught me that for maintaining a nice bikini line an Epilady works better than a Black & Decker Weed Whacker. I am forever in her debt.)

(#4) The Reps - active and effective!

The Reps got involved, which is exactly what they were supposed to do. Throughout the entire convention they talked to each other and worked together. They participated in the various committee meetings, and many even attended the Board of Directors meeting. The Reps did their job, and that bodes well for our future.

Let me explain why. IFGE is three things: an educational tool, a communications network, and a mutual support system for our community. Every organization and service tied into that communications network and support system is IFGE. It then becomes IFGE's job to provide the tools for that network to work; the 'Tapestry', sale of publications, the convention, information distribution, the 'Update', and perhaps most important - the Congress of Representatives. The Reps are the communications conduit for their organizations, and therefore the success of everything (the communications network, and the support system, and the marketing system) depends on the Reps. The Reps are the foundation upon which our community will grow and become strong and effective.

One more thing. Not only did the Reps actively participate, many of the Reps assumed leadership responsibilities. For instance, Jane Fee ('CLCC') chaired the IFGE Marketing Committee, and did such an outstanding job the IFGE Board of Directors appointed her permanent chairperson of that committee. Alison Laing (Renaissance) chaired the Membership Committee. Josephine Williamson ('MORE') coordinated the 3-hour Reps Workshop and the Reps committee meeting. Sabrina Marcus ('Fantasia') is coordinating a mini conference for Reps from the Southeast (to be held in Atlanta on 8/11/90).

(#5) The programs!

First, Robin Esch (Programs Coordinator) and her staff, Christina Young (TS Programs), Dan Riley (F-M Programs), and Roger & Niela (Professional Programs) did a fantastic job putting together a well balanced and comprehensive program schedule.

We did something new for this year's programs. In the past we used the evaluation forms to decide what programs we wanted, and then looked for presenters. In other words, the last convention dictated what was going to happen the next year. This year we did the opposite. We went to our community looking for people who wanted to present a program, and selected from the proposals submitted. The result was an eclectic program schedule that covered everything from self-help, to religion, to healing, to alcoholism, to politics, and everything in between. The intent was to tap into the resources of our community as a whole, and get some of our pioneering and creative juices flowing. We succeeded.

There were many first's at this convention.

For instance, until now we have virtually ignored fully one half of our community, the female-to-males. This year we invited Holly Devor (a sociologist working on F-M issues) to be a speaker, and Dan Riley coordinated an excellent full day program specifically for the F-M's.

Until now we have treated TS issues as totally separate from CD issues. This year we didn't, and the result was astounding. It turns out that TS issues are not just for TS's... they concern everyone, and vise versa. The TS programs were among the best attended and highest ranked programs.

For the first time we invited representatives from the Gay Community and the Women's Movement to talk to us about their issues, and vise versa. It turns out their issues are not too different than ours, and there are many ways we can work together for the happiness and success of all.

For the first time we explored here-to-for verboten topics such as power play, adult children of alcoholics, healing, politics, and real planning for real results.

There were too many other "first's" to mention here. Suffice it to say this convention demonstrated that our lives are made up of a complex matrix of issues, and once we climb out of our self-inflicted "tunnel vision" ruts and turn our pioneers loose on that matrix, we have the stuff for a near infinite variety of future programs.

Yes, my brothers and sisters, given the scope of our program material and the quality of our presenters, future conventions are only going to get better.

(#6) the IFGE committees!

I have often said the primary purpose of the convention is to tend to the business of our community, and the work

gets done behind the scenes in the IFGE committees. It's a wonderful concept, but until this year that's all it was... a concept. Now it's reality.

Add this to our already long list of "first's": This was the first time that all our committees did what they were supposed to do, namely, review the events of the previous year, plan action items for the future, and prepare a report for the Board of Directors. The chairpeople of each committee did an excellent job at keeping the meetings on track, cooperative, and effective.

Also, for the first time the committee meetings were open to all interested persons. The committee meetings were opened up for a specific reason; to give our future leaders a chance to "get their hands dirty" in the business of our community. By opening up these meetings we tapped into a totally unexpected reservoir of enthusiastic and capable people... people ready to go to work. Instead of the expected 3 or 4, we had between 15 and 30 people at each meeting. Just fantastic!

In my opening statement I said we wouldn't know how successful we were until next year. We have a lot of people, a lot of enthusiasm, and a lot of promises. Now let's see how well those promises get fulfilled.

(#7) The IFGE Board of Directors meeting!

Wendi Pierce (Chairman of the Board) did a super job. She sat down with agenda and gavel in hand, and called the meeting to order - on time. Preliminary items were covered and committee reports made, bang-bang-bang! Old business, new business, and action items were covered bang-bang-bang, and then we were out the door. We covered all our items with a minimal amount of hassle, and were out the door in less than 4 hours. Considering the amount of work we had to do, that was extraordinary. It was far and away the most comprehensive and most effective Board meeting we ever had. My personal congratulations go to Wendi for a first class job. Maybe next year we can get it all done in 3 hours. (What was that they say about dreaming the impossible dream?)

(A little bit of insight. In the past our Board meetings ran about the same length of time (4 hours). The difference this year was the committees did their jobs, and we found ourselves with dozens of action items we never had to deal with before. Wendi swung a mean gavel, and kept the traditional "BS" to a minimum, and kept our traditional "problem children" from getting us too sidetracked. She did a professional job of running that meeting.)

Conclusion:

My perspective of the convention is different than most people's. I am not interested in parties, or meeting old friends and having a good time. Who am I kidding? Of course I am! However, I am more interested in how well the convention serves our community. Also, I am less interested in how many people came to the convention and had their needs met than I am in how many people out there will have their needs met by the people who attended the convention. Finally, our long-term objective is to help all our people live happier and more successful lives. I will judge the convention on how effective it was towards achieving that objective. The verdict is still out - but it looks promising.

In the words of the immortal Kojak, "Who loves you, baby?" I do..., and judging by all the wonderful people who attended the convention, there are hundreds of others who do as well.

[END]

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PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

by Renee Chevalier

From the day I arrived at the Convention it was like old home week, and the love and the hugs started and didn't stop. It was great! I still have times when my eyes fill with tears when I think about my friends, and the effort put forth by them for everyone's benefit.

The one new program that impressed me was the 'Adult Children of Alcoholics' talk given by Jennifer Brown. She gave an excellent talk and a lot of information for us to ponder. Not to slight anyone, all the programs were great, but hers was among the few that did not address gender, but did show a correlation between the two. I would also like to mention the talk given by Wendy Parker. I was not able to attend, but I did read the transcript, and it was one of the best I've ever read. Thank you Wendy.

Now I want to share with you something that happened to me at the convention. It was a first for me, and possibly a first for IFGE's convention. My parents attended the convention.

About a year ago I began living and working full time as Renee. When I began living full time I wanted to disappear into the woodwork and never be seen again, but little by little I came back to the support groups. Before I decided to live full time I contacted my mom and dad. It did not go well. The outcome was sad, and the end result was they did not choose to see me, and banned me from their house.

Over the next year we stayed in distant contact. Then, when my mate and I separated, she wrote my mother and father a very nice letter. Because of the time she took explaining me to them, their position softened, and over the months that followed, still at arms length, mom and dad renewed their interest in my life.

Then, out of the blue, a wonderful person (Jeanie Ebener, Administrator of 'Loved Ones of Transsexuals' [LOTS]) wrote my parents and told of the things that she had experienced and how the LOVE for her child made the difference. She was (and is) positive, open, honest, and loving, and that made all the difference in the world to my mother and father. Well, they felt the love, and the turn around was dramatic and immediate.

What happened next even surprised me. I mentioned to my parents that I would be in Boston for the IFGE 'Coming Together' Convention, and they might meet me in the hotel and stay a couple of days so we might talk. The thought was to get them to see me. The convention was what we both were looking for... a neutral place to meet.

I never thought they would ever show for the convention, but I hoped. Saturday came and I didn't have a message at the desk so I called them to find out if they were coming. The answer was yes, and they said they would be there by Saturday night for the banquet. Still, the realization that they would show up was just a hope.

Around 5:00 pm a call came to my room from the desk. Your mom and dad are at the front desk. The first thing I said was, "OH SHIT!" They were here, and I was dressed wrong..., I looked like hell. "OK, take a deep breath, let it out slow, put one foot in front of the other, and go to the desk."

All the way there I was thinking, I hope they like me. They were in sight and I started thinking how much I loved them and wanted their approval, and how much I wanted them in my life. Clomp, clomp, as I got closer I could hear my heels pounding on the floor, and my heart pounding in my ears. MY mother's eyes and mine met. She looked, and started to smile. My father's eyes and mine met. He looked down and back up to my eyes. When he got over the shock of the realization of who he was looking at, he said, "Hi Rich, I mean Renee. Got a good pair of legs on ya."

All the worry was over, all that worry for nothing. The rest of the weekend was GREAT, and my mom and dad had a wonderful time. When it was time to leave, they told me they were pleased to have met everyone, and felt more comfortable having the knowledge that I was loved and accepted, and had so many friends. We hugged, and said goodbye, and knew it was OK.

There is a little story my friend Wendy Parker told at the convention that covers most of the problems we face. There was a man locked deep in a dungeon for twenty years. He finally decided to free himself or be killed in the process. He made a plan to jump the jailer when he brought his dinner the next day. While laying out his plan he turned the handle of his cell only to find it wasn't locked. Upon making this discovery he fled the cell to his home to live happily ever after. The message is we all tend to lock ourselves up in false beliefs. If we do not have the courage to try the door, we will remain forever in our own personal prisons.

I was asked at the convention why I chose to overwhelm my mom and dad with a convention of gender people. My answer was simple. I was very proud of my friends and the people I know in the gender community. I wanted to have my parents meet my friends ... my best friends.

[END]

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A FIRST-TIMER'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

by Joanna Edlons

I had only been out of the closet for five weeks at the time of the convention, and my public appearances en femme had been limited to the IFGE offices, Vernon's Specialties, and walking from my apartment to my car. Any attendance at the convention would be a break in that pattern and more exposure as Joanna. It was just what I wanted and needed - all I had to do was talk myself into it. I decided to "go for

Having mad the decision, I wrote a check, filled out the application and sent it in. Couldn't back out now!!! I was only going to be at the convention on Saturday, but for Joanna it will be enough - this time. Since I am a volunteer worker at IFGE, I get to talk "girl talk" with Yvonne Cook, and she knew my wavering feelings about this little venture. In a gesture of support, she invited me to visit during one of

the weekday evenings, meet some of my sisters, and see for myself the sociability of the group. I chose to go on Wednesday night, but for no special reason. It turned out to be a good choice.

On that night, wearing a new dress and properly made up, I walked into the lobby of the Crowne Plaza and suddenly realized that an awful lot of people there didn't appear to be cross-dressers. I came close to doing an about face, but instead I steered myself toward the front desk were a male clerk cheerfully headed me in the right direction. So there I was again, walking past the crowded lounge area, my high heels clicking on the floor surface, but I was headed for safe cover and didn't feel as conspicuous as I did moments before.

"Let's see now, here it is - Hampton Ballroom... no problem!!!" I gracefully walked in and found ... no one! It was after 7:00 pm, there should have been people, laughter, music, and all the other sounds of a social gathering. Instead, there was NOTHING! Then was the time to panic. I was a man in a dress, in a hotel full of people who didn't behave like me, looking for people who did behave like me, who were supposed to be right there, and I came up empty. Now what? Head for home? At that moment a service door opened and in walked a bartender - no, a savior. Yes, this was the right room, yes, the group was running late, and I could probably find some of my sisters in the lounge. That's where I headed. But, I really was not ready to experience such a mixed crowd and went to find the registration area and possibly a familiar face. It was then that I ran into Yvonne, and was soon put under the guidance of Dorothy Anne Finch who steered me toward the Hampton once again.

Those minutes away from that room made a big difference in what was going on within its walls. There was now the people, laughter, music, and the friendly sounds of a social gathering. I was introduced to sisters whose pictures had appeared in the articles of Tapestry, which I had read and re-read over and over again... sisters like Virginia Prince, Ariadne Kane, Lynda Frank, Ellen Summers, and Laura Cauldwell. Under the influence of their presence and a feeling of sisterhood brought about by their encouraging words, it wasn't long before I became relaxed and my feet began freely moving with the beat of the music.

I enjoy dancing and it only took a willing partner to get me on the floor and into the rhythm of the song being played. There I was, in my heels and swirling skirt, dancing in a hotel and having the time of my life. At that moment I was Joanna and nothing else mattered.

All good things must regretfully come to an end, and it took two attempts at leaving before I finally forced myself to go. I openly wished it didn't have to end so soon, but I still had to face the ride home, and had yet to undo all that which made me look like Joanna.

The following Saturday came in what seemed like a week later. Friday night I shaved my legs - they didn't need it; ironed my dress - it didn't need it; and went to bed early - I needed it. At about 4:45 a.m. I awoke, full of anticipation, much like a kid on the opening day of trout season. There certainly was ample time to create Joanna. At last, she was ready.

My entrance this time at the Crowne was certainly more relaxed. As I headed for the registration room I met a sister who offered her help, even though it was obvious she was she was headed in the opposite direction. She brought me to my destination, and although she remains nameless, I remember her for her kindness and sisterly concern.

With registration folder in hand, I found a quiet spot to review its contents, and plan my next move. After sharing a coffee and refreshments with Jenny Stevens, Keynote speaker for Saturday's luncheon and a sister from Syracuse, I stopped in to catch the tail end of Dr. Peo's panel discussion. Oh, how I regretted missing the first part of this interesting program.

After the program I went to the restaurant for lunch, and began reflecting on what had been happening thus far, and thinking about what the rest of the afternoon would be like. It was a moment of indecision. I was surrounded by people who all seemed to know each other, sharing previous experiences and talking about things I had only read about, and I was on the verge of leaving for home. Just then a sister approached me and asked if I would join her in trying to find a restroom. Her timing was perfect. Thank goodness for Irene Rose of Maryland. She became an instant friend and confidant, and by her openness, made the rest of my day.

Irene invited me to go shopping with her. By then, bolstered by Irene's own confidence, I was ready to take on the challenge of shopping en femme, but, I passed it up in order to get ready for the banquet. Next time!

The banquet was the climactic event of the convention, and for me it was the end of a memorable day. There were so many "firsts" during this time that I won't detail them, but I do want to mention the joy I had in wearing my first corsage. As my male self, I had bought them for others, but this time it was pinned the shoulder of my blouse. Little things do indeed mean a lot.

At the end of the evening I was tired, my feet hurt (they had been encased in heels for over fourteen hours), and it was time to say "goodbye," rather, "so long for now," to all my new found sisters.

I will be at other places, and we will meet again. This convention has been more than an experience and learning

step - it has been **fun**! The person who is Joanna has been strengthened, has found new confidence in herself, has enriched her life with the caring of new friends, and waits for the next opportunity to develope her fem-self.

For my sisters out there who, like me, had been holding back their development for whatever personal reason, "Don't just 'go for it'... get it!!!"

[END]

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IFGE's 4th Annual
'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' Convention
PHOTO ALBUM

Photographers: Mararita Riess (MR), Mariette Pathy Allen (MPA), Wendi Danielle Pierce (WDP), Wendy Susan Parker (WSP), Renee Chevalier (RC)

Crowne Plaza Hotel & IFGE Convention Staff (Photo: MR)

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director (Photo: ES)

Bette Lee Johnson, Coordinator (photo: MR)

Wendy Parker &Mariette Allen (photo: MPA)

Boogie the night away.... (photo: MPA)

And the winner with 47 hangers is.... (photo:MPA)

Dr. Virginia Prince, Ari Kane (photo: MPA)

Rachel Richards (Rep), Donna Mobley (Staff) (photo: MPA)

Chris Young, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Kay Metsker (photo: MPA)

Holly Devor (CAN, Speaker) (photo: MR)

Sheila Kirk (IFGE Board) (photo: MPA)

Niela Miller (Presenter) (photo: WDP)

Marie G. (MA, Registration) (photo: WSP)

Have you met Sister Wendi Danielle? (photo: WDP)

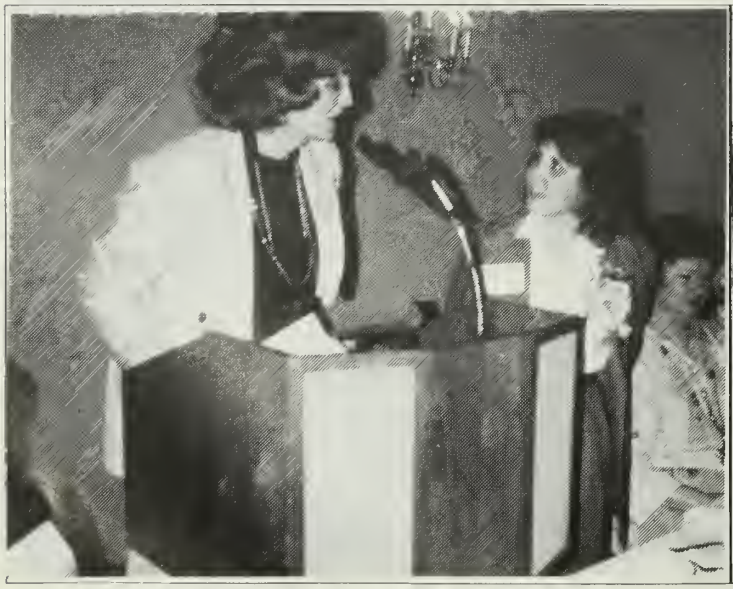
Ariadne Kane (Presenter) (photo: MR)

Donna Routh, Jill Benedict (CO Reps) (photo: MPA)

Renee Chinquapin (CA, Presenter) (photo: MPA)

Ari Kane, Sybil Holiday (presenter) (photo: MPA)

Eve Burchert (IFGE Board) & Merissa (photo: MR)



Sheila introducing the Rev. Kim Crawford Harive (Speaker) (photo: MR)

Ellen Summers (IFGE Board), Jolynne White (photo: RC)

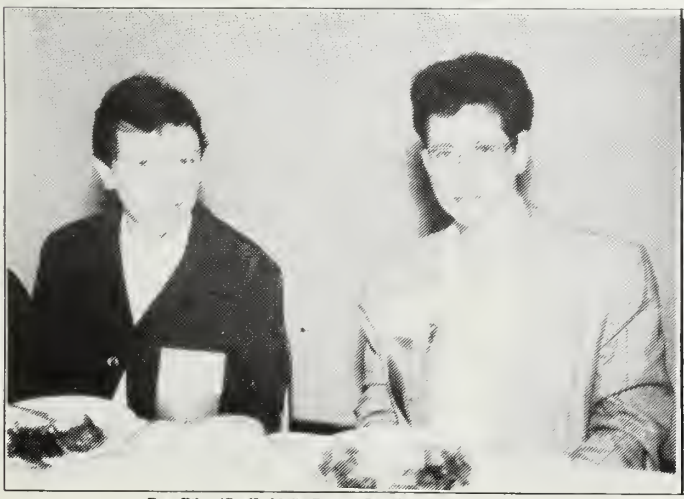
Emily Sheldon (DE Rep) (photo:MPA)

Gwenneth, Chris, & Friend (photo: WDP)

Elona Miller (WV Rep) (photo: MR)

Jolynne White's 'Healing' (photo: MPA)

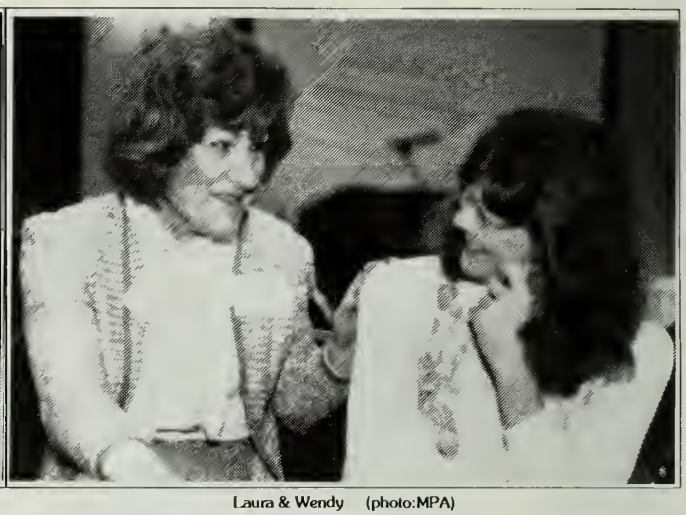
Renee C. (IFGE Board), Naomi O. (IFGE Board) (photo)MPA)



Dan Riley (Staff), Holly Devor (Speaker) (photo: MPA)

Yes, Sheila's in deep tapioca once again! (photo: MPA)

L: Stephanie Fox (KS, Rep) (photo: MPA)



Laura & Wendy (photo:MPA)

Christina Young (Staff), Wendi Pierce (IFGE Board) (photo:WDP)

Niela Miller (MA, Presenter) (photo: WDP)

Nancy C. (KS, Rep), Jennifer Brown (NY, Presenter) (photo: MPA)

"Don't let Merissa see this dress.... She'll buy it!" (photo: MPA)

Mariette Pathy Allen (Photographer) (photo: MR)

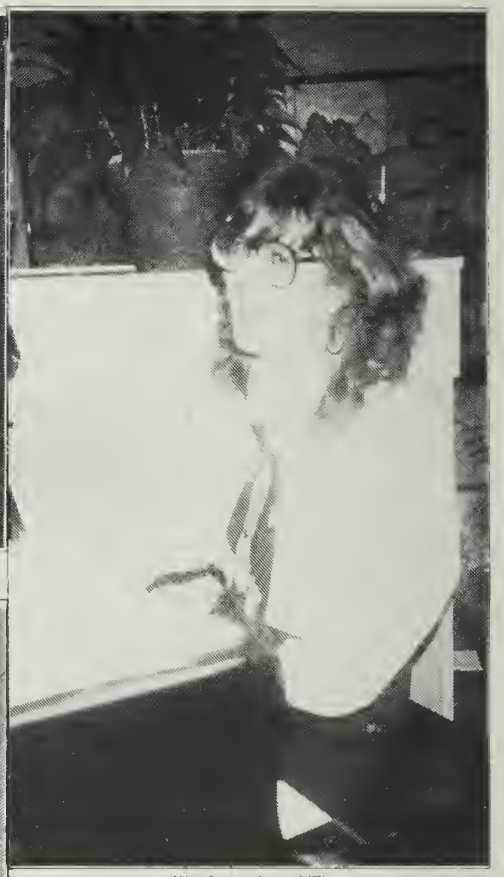
Merissa & Shirley Kay (NM, Staff) (photo: MPA)

Wendy & Yvonne Cook (IN, Conv. Operations) (photo: MR)

Juliette & Sybil (Presenters) (photo: MR)

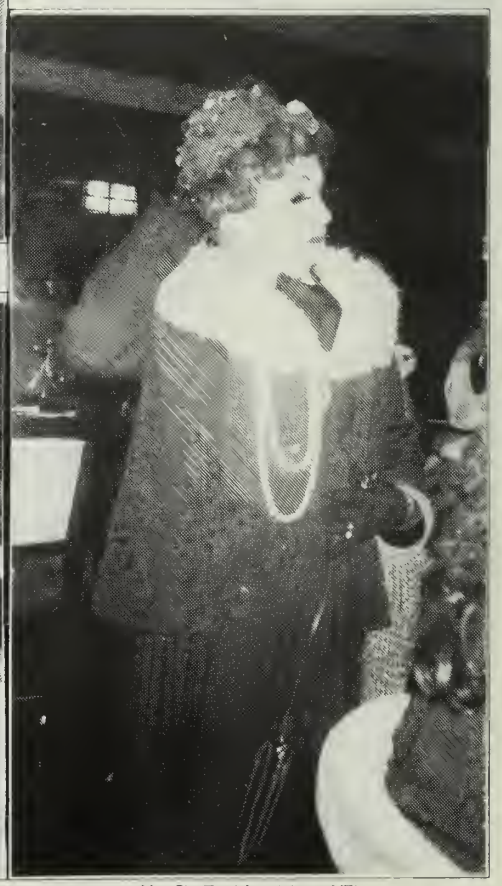
Janice Rupard (TX, IFGE Board) & Niela Miller (Presenter) (photo: WDP)

Donna & Jill (CO, GIC), Donna Mobley (NM, Audio Visual) (photo: MR)



Wendy (photo: MR)

Jane Ellen Fairfax (TX, IFGE Board), Virginia Prince (CA, IFGE Board) (photo: MR)



Mrs. Shufflewick (photo: MR)

Frances (NC), Carol (NY), Jo Anne Fraser (IL, Rep) (photo: WSP)

Christina Young (TS Prog. Coord.) (MR)

Wendy & Merissa ((photo: WSP)

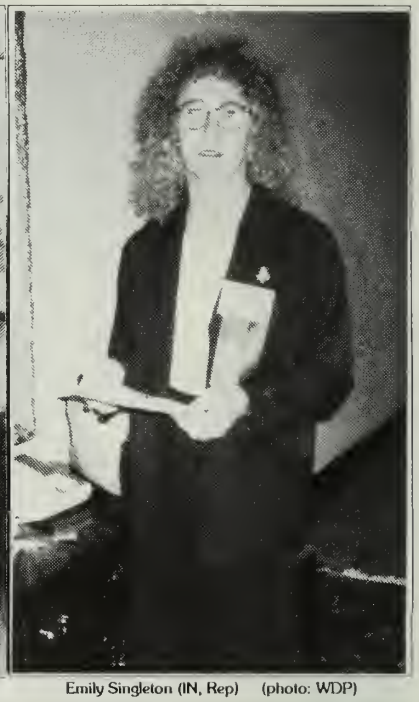
Jane Fee (MN, Mktng Cmmttee) (photo: MPA)

Jan Rupard (TX, Rep) (photo: MPA)

Anthony & Jim Bridges, Charlotte H. (CA, ETVC) & friend (photo: MR)

Joanna Roperts (PA), Sr. Mary Elizabeth (J2CP) (photo: WDP)

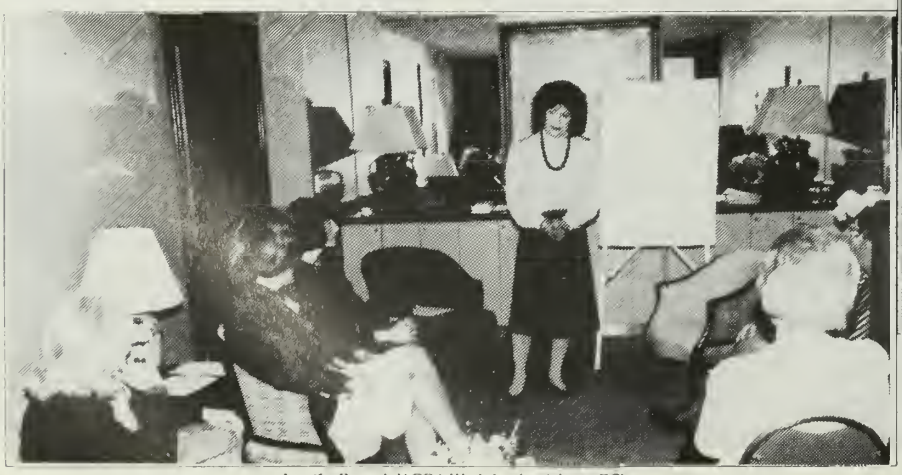
The IFGE Firing Squad... (photo: HC)



Emily Singleton (IN, Rep) (photo: WDP)

Bill Henkin & Sybil Holiday (Presenters) (photo: MR)

The Widow Dwyer,
Dowager Empress of Registration,
Protectorate of the Cash Box,
& Sister Mary, Mother Superior, IFGE
(photo: MPA)



Jennifer Brown's 'ACOA Workshop' (photo: RC)

Diane Ingram (IFGE Board), Sheila Kirk (Exec. Comm.) (photo: WDP)

Wendi Pierce (Chmn, IFGE Board), Merissa Lynn (IFGE Exec. Dir.) (photo: WDP)

Naomi O. (IFGE Board), Jill, Kay M. (Staff) (photo: WDP)

If you truly want to be the Belle of the Ball,
make sure nobody else has the same idea!

"Is that carnation really a piece of broccoli in drag?"

The Head Table, L-R: Robin Esch (Programs Coord.), Ariadne Kane (Dir. Outreach), Sr. Mary Elizabeth (Dir. J2CP), Sheila Kirk (Banquet Coord.) Virginia Prince (Founder FPE), Merissa Sherrill Lynn (Founder IFGE), Wendi Danielle Pierce (Chmn IFGE Board) (photo: MPA)

L-R: Chris Stately (OH, Rep), Wendy, Delia, Dan Riley (Dir. F-M), -- (photo: MPA)

Sr. Mary, Virginia Prince (photo: MR)

"Oh.... it's just a private little joke."

Diane Ingram (AZ, Communications Coord.)

Catherine, Laura, Dan (photo: MR)

Robin, Linda Buten (IFGE Board) (photo: WDP)

=-= The Four Recipients =-=
'The Dr. Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award'
Sr. Mary Elizabeth (4th), Ariadne Kane (3rd),
Dr. Virginia Prince (1st), Merissa Sherrill Lynn (2nd)

'Coming Together - Working Together' Transcription:
Kaynote Address by: the Reverend Kim K. Crawford Harvie
Crowne Plaza, Natick, Massachusetts
March 30, 1990

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

by Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

[Kim Crawford Harvie is currently the Senior Minister of the Arlington Street Church in Boston. Before coming to Boston Kim was the senior minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Provincetown, Massachusetts.]

I'm happy to be with you today, and honored to be asked to share a few thoughts with you. Many of you shared some Sunday mornings with us at the Meeting House in Provincetown over the four years that I was there, and some of you have even braved Arlington Street Church in Downtown Boston. When you join us for worship, I feel that our Church is fulfilling its mission of embracing diversity, and it brings me great joy.

My first experience of the cross-dressing community as a community was in the Fall of 1985, during Fantasia Fair in Provincetown. I was immediately struck by the possibilities for this community to do some very important healing work in our society. Over these past four years, that impression of potential has never left me. It occurs to me that I might make a kind of offering today of what I, as a loving "outsider," envision and hope for you.

Let me start by saying something about myself, by way of a context for my remarks. I was raised with an appreciation of marginality. For this, I am eternally grateful. My father was a Democrat amidst Republicans. Our family was Unitarian Universalist in a Roman Catholic neighborhood. When my father left our family, we were an all-female, small, single-parent household amidst huge, two-parent households. Sometimes my "differences" made me happy -- I felt special -- and sometimes they were a source of anguish. A lot of what I did by way of response to being "different" was to cultivate a deep pride in what was mine, and to seek to excel. My purpose in life was to make good the family name, within the context of the mainstream, and, at the same time, to prove that life was more exciting out on the margin.

There were many experiences of feeling different over the years for me, and then when I was twenty-one, the big difference came home to roost: I realized I was a lesbian. This, I realized immediately, was certainly exciting, but was going to ask a special effort from me to prove itself worthy of pride.

At one moment, or perhaps over a long period of time, everyone in this room realized that she was different from what is imagined to be normal -- and I hope that no one here ever uses that word, "normal," knowing full well from the circumstances of your own lives that "normal" is only a made-up facade, and a damaging one at that. I know that parts of my story resonate deeply with parts of your stories, and I honor the spirit of survival as it has graced us all.

We react to understanding ourselves as "special" in a variety of ways. If we're lucky, the first thing we do is to share our secret, our realization, with someone who loves us, and whom we trust. Those early reactions to our "differentness" are very important, and we're lucky if they are, at least in part, positive. We're luckiest when we can find people who are different in the same way.

I have three thoughts about the potential of the cross-dressing community. My first thought about your potential as a community is that you might provide a haven for those who are just coming to terms with wanting to dress. Just imagine if, as you were awakening to this fact--perhaps in your adolescence, for example--you could have called a phone number or come to an event like this. All of us need contexts in our lives in which who and what we are is normative. And each of us has the potential to stay confusion, despair, and desperation in our sister travelers. I offer you this maxim from my friend, Smokey the Bear: "Only You."

This points to the second thought about your community's potential: If each of us can practice revealing all of who we really are, then the possibilities of being role models of honest, of ethical congruity, are very high...not to mention the heightened possibilities for being able to sleep at night. I don't want to dwell on this point--I know that it is the source of much anxiety and unhappiness for many of you--but please let me encourage and salute your efforts at coming out. Yes, you will draw out your enemies, but you will also

draw out your allies, which is a wonderful, affirming, and empowering experience.

I can tell you that the more I come out as a lesbian, the more I discover that there are a whole lot more of "us"--all of us out here on the edge--than there are of "them"--those who are more or less ensconced in the mainstream. Ultimately, whatever you do, even if you never tell another person outside the community the whole truth of yourself, please never, never betray yourself by laughing at cruel jokes about males in women's clothes or by laughing at males who are dressed. It will haunt you for the rest of your life. As you know, until fairly recently in the cross-dressing community, there was a lot of homophobia, a lot of fag-bashing...God forbid should someone think that, because you dressed like a woman, you wanted to be with another man. There is simply no room for that in the world today. "We may have come here in different ships, but we're in the same boat now." (Mel King)

My third thought about your community's potential has to do with risk-taking. First, a little background. The moment we recognize that we are different, we want to be just like everyone else who is different in the same way we're different. It's a natural response. And you can usually tell how long someone has identified as being different by how they dress, how they walk and talk, where they walk to and what they talk about. But the process of individuation is sstunted in the majority of us; we only self-actualize to a point where we have some distinguishing characteristics, and, for the most part, we retain the marks of our cultural identity.

I think of this process in myself; here's an example I think you might appreciate: I often wear a dress--I even own many more than one of them, in fact, which is many more plus one than many, many lesbians--but I wouldn't dream of harnessing myself into a bra or girdle. For an example from your community, I have two close friends who have cross-dressed for years, and who make regular public appearances in both their masculine and feminine guise. But, at some point, both of them decided that they would no longer wear breasts; when they dress, now, they dress just as flat-chested as some of us females are. This distinguishes them, gives them their own special look. But they wouldn't dream of going without their wigs.

The point is that, ironically, it's very hard to take risks if you're out on the margin. We need one another so badly, each of us in our respective communities, that we tend to be rigid or intransigent about our unwritten rules. But I have a special thought about the cross-dressing community vis a vis risktaking.

Simply said, you can encourage it. You have a very important mission here, a mission of humanizing our society. Culturally, we live as men and women on opposite poles. For the largest part, we are socialized separately. But you live in between, and that means you have the potential to be bearers of clear communication and goodwill across the divide. It is not an easy position to be in, but it could be considered a position of importance and honor, as it was in many Native American tribes. It's up to you.

Providing a haven for your newcomers, and a meaningful supportive community for you all, coming out, and taking risks--these are three challenges to your potential as a people today. Moreover, to live honorably out on the margin asks very hard things of each of us. Briefly, here are three thoughts I have about the cross-dressing community's special challenges.

First, you are challenged not to be stereotypical in your presentation. If you dress to look like a caricature of a woman, rather than as a true woman, you are only hurting yourself. One friend who dresses told me that she bought enormous falsies and ridiculously long eyelashes and killing stiletto heels so that people would think she was only fooling round. At some level, she didn't believe she deserved to be taken seriously, so she didn't take herself seriously. If you want to dress like a woman, you will be so much more warmly received if you don't insult women while doing it.

Second, and most important, if you dress like a woman, it is important to act like a woman. I don't mean that you need to cross your legs at the ankles when seated--most females I know don't do this. But it is important to truly, deeply, committedly try on the best of what women have become over the centuries--nurturing, compassionate, patient teachers and healers as well as gutsy, powerful movers and shakers. It is women who have defined the spiritual life of most church communities; women who have tenderly cared for the very young, the very old, and the unwell; women who have brought aesthetics into every corner of our lives; women who have marched for peace and done men's and women's work while the men were off to war; and women who are today at the forefront of every movement to heal all manner of brokenness in our society. I encourage you to read the history of women, to read women's literature, to see women's art, and to hear women's music. The only reason that the gender roles have begun to slide a little is because courageous people from the margin--lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and crossdressers--have dared to challenge them, dared, as women, to enter into traditional men's spheres and dared, as men, to enter into traditional women's spheres.

Finally, third, it would be so unfair to enjoy dressing as a woman, trying on a woman's persona, and never going further, never giving any of your time or energy or money to causes that deeply affect women, like birth control and childcare and equal pay for equal work. It is more than appropriate to give your hard-earned male dollars to further the cause of women. Many of you have begun to do this; I owe a personal thank you to Jenny Stevens, who has been

a wonderful spokesperson for women and has consistently and generously put her money where her mouth is. It begins a home, making sure that your girlfriend or wife has as big a clothing allowance as you do, and, most importantly, enjoys the power and respect and freedom that you enjoy. But it is much, much bigger than that. Women are the poorest people in the world. Women and children are the most at risk for being on our planet right now. Think about what you can do for women, and know that it will be doing something for yourself. Think globally and act locally and globally.

And please talk to your men friends about this. You don't have to introduce the issue by saying, "I dress as a woman, so I have a special stake in this issue"--although that would be wonderful, if you dare. Try to imagine being dressed as you are coupled with not being physically strong enough to fight back, and speak up about domestic violence and violence in our streets. Let yourself feel how incredibly vulnerable a woman feels every time she leaves home--and sometimes, how vulnerable we feel right within our homes. Seek to deeply experience that vulnerability, and then tell your men friends how you feel about the government or the church legislating the fate of a pregnancy that is the result of a rape.

My friends, there is healing work to be done, healing work that is uniquely yours to do. I invite you today to accept the challenge to live deeply into the expression of every corner of who you are. Celebrate your potential and the potential of your people by nurturing the haven of this community, by coming out as much as you possibly can--and then some--and by daring to take risks. Please throw out the stereotypes, act like women--and learn all you can of womanly ways--and seek to give your time, energy, and money to the causes that affect all of our lives.

I close with words from singer Margie Adam, who says, "Bringing together all we know for others who are struggling alone, bringing together all we are, offering those who want to find us a way to find us, a way to see, we shall go forth from this place, willing to open wide, sharing the light inside. We shall not fail."

-- The Reverend Kim K. Crawford Harvie

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TRANSCRIPT: 'Coming Together - Working Together' Convention
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, March 30, 1990
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Natick Massachusetts

SYMBIOTIC SYNERGISM WITH THE GAY COMMUNITY AND THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Moderator:
Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Executive Director,
International Foundation for Gender Education

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Merissa Sherrill Lynn:

Welcome! This workshop is entitled 'Symbiotic Synergism with the Gay Community and the Women's Movement', or as I prefer to call it, 'Saving the World 101'. However, after listening to Wendy's workshop, we had better call it, 'Saving the World 101 2nd Semester'.

To kick off this workshop I'm going to speak to you for a bit in a humble attempt to help you understand what this session is about. I hope to help you better understand the objectives, the issues, and the necessity for us all to work together.

Next, I'll introduce the first speaker from our panel, Sister Mary Elizabeth. Sister Mary, as you know, is the author of 'Legal Aspects of Transsexualism', is also one of the co-founders of the American Civil Liberties Union Transsexual Rights Committee, and is basically our community's civil libertarian. Sister will talk to us about some of our community's more specific issues, like Senate Bill 933.

Next, I would like to introduce David Lafontaine, who is the director of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Massachusetts. David will be speaking to us about some of the issues of the gay community.

Next, I would like to introduce Ann Maguire, and ...let's see if we have this right... Ann is a past member of the Lesbian Rights Committee of the National Organization of Women, the former liaison between the Mayor of Boston and the gay and lesbian community, and is currently the director of the Emergency Shelter Commission of Boston. She will be speaking to us on women's issues.

We will then finish this session with a question and answer period.

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Let's go back to the theme of the workshop which is "symbiotic synergism". We have been criticized a bit on this term, so it could be a useful term or a gawd-awful term, depending on your perspective. 'Symbiosis' is a biological term, and 'synergy' is a chemical term. We corrupted them and made them our terms. 'Symbiosis' means different organisms living together in the same environment, or different people or groups living together in a cooperative relationship. For us we will use that as different individuals and different groups sharing the same issues. Synergism is different chemicals working to create a greater effect than they could do separately. For us synergism is all of us working together to create a greater effect than any of us could do on our own. All of us sharing a cooperative relationship, working together for the benefit of all is what the terms mean, and that is our objective.

I'm a Chuck Norris fan, so please ignore the reference to Chuck at the bottom of the chart. I got carried away. However, the war, the battles, the objectives of the war, the nature of the battles, who the soldiers are that will fight the battles, and the description of the battlefields is a pretty good analogy to what we are talking about.

We are, in effect, in a war. What war? It is the war for equality and justice, and for all people to live happier and more successful lives. When I say all people I mean members of our community, the gay community, women, society as a whole... I mean all of us. Since we will never have equality, justice, peace, and happiness, it is not a war we can win. Since we cannot win the war, it is not important we win the last battle, for there will never be one. Even though we cannot win, that should not stop us. Think of it as an ideal, an objective, a direction. Ideals are just that... ideals, and we must fight for our ideals, for the ideals give our lives meaning, and the fight gives our lives purpose. I know, I'm talking like a philosopher. Well... I am a philosopher! What I'm trying to say is we have a reason to fight for our ideals that goes beyond the obvious, which is because it's to our mutual

advantage to do so.... because of a personal sense of value and purpose, and because it is to our mutual advantage to do so!

It is even more to our mutual advantage to **win** the battles... the more we win the better. But..., you can't fight the battles if you don't know where the battlefields are. We can all march on Boston and picket Fenway Park, but what good is that going to do us? ... especially if we don't know why we're picketing. To understand the battlefields we must understand two facts. The first fact is ... we exist, all of us, and we always will exist! ... And, we have a right to exist. The second fact is we are all vulnerable to and victims of discrimination! I believe Wendy made that very clear in her first session. Now we can identify the soldiers, and we can identify the battlefields. We -- CD's, TS's, gays, lesbians, females, everyone -- are the soldiers. The battlefields?... The battlefields are those barriers that would deny us our right to exist, and to live happier and more successful lives.

To get a better picture of the battlefields, let's clarify our rights:

1) We have the right to good **health**, or at least good health care, both medical and mental. That means we have the right, nay, the obligation to fight those who would deny us good health care.

2) We have the right to the pursuit of **happiness**... and in spite of what Mr. Helms may think, that is guaranteed in our country's Bill of Rights! That means we have the right, nay, the obligation to fight for our right to be who and what we are... to be true to our own spirits.

3) We have the right to **peace** of mind! To me that means the freedom from unwarranted guilt, from fear, and from social reprisals for being who and what we are! Think of the ignorance, the fear, and the hatred that exists out there. My God, it's mind boggling. But also think of the wonderful battles we can fight ... and win!

4) We have a right to **harmony**! That means we have a right to be in harmony with ourselves (which is perhaps the biggest battle of all), and with each other, and with society, and with our God - however we conceive of God (be that God, Goddess, Nature, Cosmic Muffin or Hairy Thunderer). When I say harmony with society and God, I don't mean teaching us to live with them (fitting into their "mainstream" and their concept of "normal"), I mean teaching them to live with us, and having our religion or way of life work for us, not against us. After all, it is easier for society to learn tolerance and respect than it is for us to learn to be somebody else.

5) Finally, we have a right to **an equal opportunity to be the best that we can** be! When I say equality I mean real equality, and real justice for us all.

To effectively challenge the barriers to our rights, we need a few tools. We need to take a good close look at our character. First, we need courage, courage to challenge these barriers and stand our ground. Courage has no gender.

We need the strength to withstand the onslaught, and the strength of our convictions. Strength does not mean the ability to beat someone up, or the ability to inflict fear on someone. "Macho" is not strong ... sick maybe, but not strong. Strength means strength of character, and that has no sex.

We need the ability to fight for our rights, and that means capable people. Ability has no sex, or sexual preference, or mode of dress. Our people can claim some of the most courageous, strongest, and most able people in the world... and the world must understand that. Therein lies the first key to winning battles. We must help our people develop their natural courage, strengths, and abilities, then turn those qualities loose on the world!

God, what a horrible waste to society to let such wonderful people as us languor under the specter of fear and hatred and intolerance. Why do we let them?

We as individuals can have all the courage, strength, and ability in the world, but we're not going to win many battles if we try to do it ourselves. We will win a lot more battles if we fight them together. This means we will have to develop an **attitude** that transcends ourselves, and goes beyond our own special interests. This "attitude" has three parts:

1) We must accept the responsibility to **care** about each other. I think Jesus said, "Love thy neighbor." He didn't say love thy neighbor when you felt like it or when it was convenient, he said, "Love thy neighbor"....period! I agree. To me that means caring about each other, whether you feel like it or not.

2) We must **respect** each other's needs. We are all different. We are all unique human beings with our own unique needs. We cannot work together if we cannot respect each other's differences. Please notice I said "respect", not "understand". Until we can think with each other's brain and feel with each other's heart, we will never understand each other, but that should never interfere with our respect for each other.

3) Finally, and most importantly, we must all be willing to put out some **effort** on behalf of somebody else besides ourselves. That means I never want to hear the question, "what's in it for me?", but I always welcome the question, "what can I do to help?"

We can make our lives better... we have that **power**! So, to borrow a command from Star Trek, "LET'S MAKE IT SO!"

Thank you .... and now let's listen to Sister Mary.

[applause]

Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE:

You're a tough act to follow.

You know, it's fascinating, when I started my journey many years ago I was in the Navy at the time, and I got to see a lot of the world as a result. I went off to Bermuda for three years. It was a real eye-opener. Blacks and whites intermarried, but you didn't speak to the Portuguese. Then back to Memphis Tennessee, the heart of the Bible belt, and there the blacks and whites were fighting - it was the beginning of the civil rights movement. Then out into the Pacific, the Marshall Islands, then Okinawa and on to Viet Nam. What I found was we are a people of diversity, in race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, our upbringing, and what-have-you. But, we are a beautiful people, and the one thing we have to learn is to work together if we're going to save this planet. If we're going to be able to find happiness for ourselves we cannot keep playing the game of one-upsmanship and who is better, and on down the line.

A couple of years ago I had a chance to go up to Seattle, and visit some friends up there. I was really amazed to see a unity I had not seen anywhere else in the country at the time. The gay community, the crossdressing/transvestite community, and the transsexual community were working together as one. Out of it came a city ordinance. It doesn't protect any one particular group, but protects everyone. Now I find that in Kansas City the movement is carried on from Seattle. The gay community there, and the crossdressing community, and the transsexual community are now working together, and the Human Rights commission is now working to introduce into law as a city ordinance the Seattle ordinance in Kansas City.

It proves that we can work together if we put our diversities aside, and work together as one. It's something that I would like to invite you all, as we sit here at this convention this weekend, is to think about that, and to reach out to our neighbors and touch them, and say let's work together as one.

I think that at this point in time we are probably under more threat than we have ever been in our history, whether it's the gay community, the crossdressing community, or the transsexual community. In 1988, they introduced the Fair Housing Act of 1988, designed to increase the civil rights protection to the people of this country in the areas of housing. There had been a lawsuit a year or so before involving a transvestite. Jessie Helms was aware of it. He was aware of the fact that the court had almost ruled that the transvestite would meet the definition of handicapped as it had been conceived back in 1974. And so an amendment was added to the Fair Housing Act which was codified into law which excluded transvestites from protection.

It wasn't but a few months later that I noticed in the IFGE Congress of Representatives 'Update' a plea coming out of Troy, Ohio. A transvestite had applied to rent an apartment at a large apartment complex and had been denied an apartment because he was transvestite. He had gone to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and they said, " We'll be happy to represent you. This is a clear case of discrimination." But a few days later they dropped the case. Why? Because it was now codified into law that they could not protect him. Transvestites were excluded.

Senator Alan Cranston had asked at the time that the amendment was enacted into law, "Who will be next?" And we got our answer, in the Americans With Disabilities Act. Senator Armstrong in Colorado added a rather nefarious amendment. Homophobic as he is, aware of the Doe vs. U.S.Postal Service case, and the Doe vs. Electrocraft case up in New Hampshire, and the case being brought by Doe against United Aircraft, involving the Handicapped Laws of 1974, he chose to exclude transvestites, transsexuals, and homosexuals from protection under the act. But he used an interesting ploy. He tossed into his little list of exclusionary groups pedophiles, kleptomaniacs, drug addicts, sexual offenders..., what have you. There was no discussion on the floor of the Senate. It passed 76 to 20.

The House Bill ... We've lobbied against the inclusion of the language into the House Bill, and yet it passed 35 to 0. What I have found across the country is apathy. As Wendy said, it's more fun to party than protect our civil rights. And then we'll call somebody at 2 o'clock in the morning and cry, "I just lost my job!" or "I just got evicted!" because I didn't speak out. Now we have another opportunity, with the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1990. We have a chance to speak out and make a difference ... and work together.

There should be no hidden agendas between any community. We need to work together. When we see an article in the paper..., somebody bashing gays; a couple of weeks ago Patrick Buchanan - he used as the foundation of his article the oppression of women. But his real target was the gay community in dealing with the anti-hate-crime act that's just been passed. It would have been wonderful if every one of us from our communities had sat down and wrote letters in protest to that article. We see someone from another community on television, in effect being bashed. Why can't we take the time to write the producers, and say, "We are offended by this kind of show"? But the tendency is, we say,

"Hey, I'm not part of that community. That's not my concern." But it is our concern, because as Wendy said, we can all hang together, but surely, we will hang alone if we don't unify and work together.

[applause]

Merissa: Thank you Sister. David!

David Lafontaine:

My name is David Lafontaine. I'm with the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. I'd like to thank Merissa for being kind enough to welcome me and include me in this panel.

I'm going to be speaking from the perspective of a gay civil rights activist. As many of you know, or at least I hope most of you know, we won a great victory last year, when we finally passed the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, and it was signed on November 15, 1989 by the governor. Having devoted three whole years of my life to this, it was like seeing a dream come true that this would actually happen. And it was a turning point for a lot of us, in that as gay people it seemed as if we were constantly failing in all our efforts, and we would mount good campaigns to pass legislation, or to elect candidates, or to challenge bigotry, but ultimately it always seemed as if they were no more than that, no more than good campaigns.

To actually win a victory is really profoundly changing the consciousness of the people I know. It certainly changed my attitude. And one thing I'd like to suggest is that introducing a bill is really a wonderful way of involving all kinds of people. And what we've found is that people who had never been politically active before eventually, because of all the publicity and all the repetition around the Gay Rights Bill, became active. And that was the real victory--that it was such a shared effort, and we built so many coalitions in the process.

And more important than that, it was a piece of legislation that we introduced ourselves. So often it seems that gay people and transvestites, transsexuals, other perceived minorities are in the position of responding to things that happen to us, and it's really important that we break through that to the extent that we realize that we can set an agenda, that we have something positive to offer. And when a community writes a piece of legislation and pushes it through, that gives a tremendous sense of power. One of the things that might be on the agenda for the transvestite/transsexual community in Massachusetts would be to draft and push forward legislation, and our organization would certainly be willing to co-endorse something like that, and work right along with you.

There's really nothing more powerful than the symbolic victory of passing a bill, because what we've really done is challenged prejudice at the highest levels of government. And when you win a victory over people like Billy Bulger and Cardinal Law, and that group that has so much power in this state, it really teaches you that you can do anything... and that's what we've learned more than anything else.

Another thing that was really significant about this victory was that it was so widely publicized. I remember the day after the final major vote we had in the Senate there was a front-page headline in the Globe and the Herald that the entire cover of both the papers was devoted to the Gay Rights Bill passing the Senate. And that was something that was hard to believe was actually happening. As someone who grew up feeling I was the only gay person in my town, and feeling that I was a freak and an outcast, to actually being one of the major players, and making statewide news, and reaching millions of people on that one particular day was something that I'll always treasure in my heart in the future.

The reason I think it was so important is, I've always believed that the people we were really doing outreach to the most, were young people in our society. Those of us who survive, and manage to find the support, whether it's the transsexual community or the gay and Lesbian community, once we're in that support system, it can be very easy to forget what it's like not to have any of that support. Because it's so wonderful to be able to belong to organizations like IFGE and all the numerous gay rights organizations, we can become very wrapped up in the social activities and the warmth we have from our friends and acquaintances.

I think what we forget is that the vast majority of the people who are members of our communities are simply not plugged into these organizations. They don't read the publications that we write. However finely written they may be, they don't see the articles. They're not here today to hear the speeches, or know that sense of belonging. So what we felt with the Gay Rights Bill is that because we were using the statewide media to such an extent, that we were reaching high school kids and kids younger than that--people who would never open up the gay press would see in the Herald and the Globe and on Channel 2 and Channel 5 that for once, something positive was happening regarding gay and Lesbian people, and that visibility has to be a priority, as far as reaching out to the whole of our communities.

That goal is particularly important given the suffering that young people undergo, people who are perceived as different. One of the things I've always challenged has been the concept of the majority. I really find that an offensive concept. I know people perceive that majority rule is the

cornerstone in a democratic society. Well, it's an aspect of our democracy that I'm really not comfortable with. I think it's such an oppressive one. And for teenagers who perceive that they are different, whether because they feel a different identification in terms of sex roles, or a different attraction in terms of their sexual orientation, the effects are devastating. What we've found is that the suicide rate among gay and Lesbian teenagers is two to three times the rate for other teens. Without having the numbers at hand, I would imagine for people who have gender issues, the suicide rate must be even worse than for gay and Lesbian teenagers.

I can't think of any greater tragedy than the fact that the value system we have in our society is driving young people to kill themselves. That's an indication that there's something seriously wrong. It's also an indication that we're in a state of emergency. Whenever I feel tired and worn out from being overworked from doing all this volunteer work for civil rights, I feel that we really are in an emergency situation, and our goal is to save people's lives, and we have to do that in the most aggressive way. We have to challenge ourselves to be courageous as Merissa was talking about, and that's not easy. It's something that we can get some help from other people, but ultimately we have to find the courage within our own hearts. Once we begin to act bolstered by courage, we find that our fears were often blown out of proportion. We have very real enemies out there, but I have found that the imagined consequences of some action of mine are often grounded more in my own fears and superstitions than in what really lies out there. But you have to take the chance to make that happen... and it's a gradual process.

I have found that in the course of doing the political work, there have been all these changes in my personal life, and that the two have gone hand in hand. It wasn't as if I did all kinds of personal work and then I was ready to do political work. Rather, I became involved in the political work, and in the course of doing that, I found that I was becoming braver in terms of my personal life.

It was only in the last year that I found I was able to be open about being gay to the people in my church, which seems like a contradiction given that I'd been on Channel 2 and the Herald and the Globe. It's a lot different when it's your own circle of friends and people you feel a personal connection with, to have that kind of honesty. Again, I was in the situation of being the only gay person in my church and not having any support around me. Fortunately I found that my minister was very supportive. What it really meant was I was able to save relationships that I valued.

What I found had been happening to me was because I was hiding this part of myself. I was becoming bitter and resentful towards the people around me, even though it wasn't their fault. I was imagining that they would reject me, even though I had no basis to believe that. So I found that I was going to church less and less, and I was rejecting people, so that they wouldn't have the chance to reject me first. Then simply by accident, someone in my church saw an article about me in a local paper with a picture, and she tacked it up on the church bulletin board. So, there it was for everyone to see, whether I liked it or not.

My minister wrote me a letter and said she had seen the article and said she wanted me to involve the church in the effort to pass the bill. So, I went back to church, and one Sunday I stood up and asked people to help out with the effort to get the bill through. Virtually everyone there wrote letters during the coffee hour. What I found was that I've made a lot of new friends, whereas before I'd had a distant relationship with most of the people there. Now I really feel that I'm being myself, and it's enabled me to care about the other people in a genuine way.

As someone who has struggled for years with fears of rejection, I think I can understand some of what a lot of you feel, and that it's very important to have the respect of the people around me and not to feel that I'm going to be rejected or lose relationships. But, on the other hand, it's also important to me to feel that I'm being honest with people and they really understand what kind of person I am. So the only way of reconciling these two was to take some risks, and I feel fortunate that in many cases the risks have paid off. On the other hand, I've lost a lot of people too. That's inevitable, that as you change and become more true to yourself, your life will be transformed completely.

As far as transformation goes, I think that the Gay Rights Bill being signed into law has marked a significant turning point in the history of the gay rights movement in this state. And there are definitely different concepts of where we go from here. Many people in the gay and Lesbian community are focused primarily on their own issues. Having won this bill has made a lot of people think that probably they're ready to rejoin society, and for some of them that means joining the Republican Party or living very traditional lives, so long as their rights are protected. For many of them, this may be what they've always wanted, to have these legal protections, and then feel that they can join so-called respectable society.

I've been very troubled by that attitude. I defend the right of people to have that concept of the direction of the gay rights movement, but it could not be more different from my own, because people who have experienced oppression, people who have been on the outside, are really the ones who have to be the leaders, as far as changing society. And

if our major goal is to redress the wrongs that we've suffered, and that's the extent of it, we've lost that wonderful opportunity to change society as a whole.

There are so many forms of prejudice that we haven't even begun to articulate, but we are not going to begin to articulate them unless we challenge ourselves to build these coalitions. The gay rights movement, when it began, was more inclusive that it is now. There seems to be a very marked tendency in recent years for a more conservative, or what people would conceive to be a respectable image, and to stifle males who might be seen as more flamboyant, or to encourage Lesbians to be more businesslike and more feminine, in effect really to tell people that the way to win our rights is to mimic the behaviors of the existing groups, so that we somehow become less offensive to the majority. But in essence, if that's our tactic, then we've lost, regardless of the outcome of any piece of legislation.

Ultimately our goal should be to change people's attitudes. There's nothing wrong with us--there's something wrong with the world that doesn't allow people to be themselves. We're not going to change the world's attitudes about people's individuality unless we're very forthright about the particular aspect of us that is different from the majority. That aspect may be the way we dress, it may be the kinds of relationships we have, whether they're with the same sex or the opposite sex, it may be the way we relate to our ethnic background, and the kind of religion we practice. But it's our difference that gives us the power. That's really the power that we have to change society with. If we obliterate that difference, then we've lost that chance.

Fortunately for gay people, we have the foundation of the civil rights movement. That's given us our power. And we have the women's movement, and the black civil rights movement, and the work of Jewish organizations. They've laid the foundation for us. And similarly, too, I feel that we're in the position to provide that foundation for other people.

Often one thing that would come up in lobbying legislators is that people would say to us, "When is it going to stop? So if we give you people your rights, what's going to happen next? What group will want their rights next? Suppose overweigh people feel that they're being discriminated against? Are we going to have laws to protect them?" My response to that is: it's going to continue as long as we find ways in which people are being deprived of their rights to happiness and liberty.

Rather than looking at this as an annoyance, I think it's a miraculous thing, it's a tribute to our ability to be sensitive, that we're learning more and more about human beings, and what brings happiness and what brings unhappiness. We have to identify ways in which people are different. we have to articulate those differences, in the most public of ways if we're going to change society. And I would imagine that if we were truly honest with each other, if we were to bring about these wholesale changes in society, this concept of the majority might be forever exploded.

A lot of the people who are living the lives, the more mainstream lives, are just better at hiding their differences than gay people or transsexuals or other people who may have a difference that is more easily identifiable. But this concept of the majority and the mainstream is just as oppressive to all individuals. Even the most privileged people, even the white heterosexual male who may seem to be benefitting from living in the mainstream, once that person becomes sixty-four or seventy, then suddenly that person is a member of a minority. Once that person has a disability, then that person finds that if someone's hard of hearing, that person is not considered good company, or younger people don't want to be around that person.

So we're all different from the majority, and it's time that those of us who are noticeably different realize that we have something to teach the rest of society and realize that we have something to be proud of. And as far as the gay rights movement, I'd like to feel that, rather than just trying to find our piece of the pie, we have articulated a new kind of difference, which will make it easier for other people, whose difference has not been as really articulated to be more vocal.

Once again I thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

[applause]

Merissa: Before I introduce Ann, I have a little story concerning David's efforts for the legislation last November. The Tiffany Club has a number of residents, one of whom is Charlene Mann. Some of you may know her (she'll be here Friday, I believe) and, at the IFGE office we have a volunteer worker named Karen Matthews. Well, both of them volunteered to help out in phone soliciting to gain support for the legislation. They both were at David's house making phone calls. Karen Matthews really gets into her work; give her a list of numbers and she goes right at it. Well, she was just calling away, and was very excited. At the same time, Charlene Mann, who was sitting right behind Karen, received a call. Both of them were into their phone conversations. Karen was sitting there -- and boy, she had a live one on the telephone, she's really going to get some support out of this one. And Charlene was at the other end saying "We have a live one, and boy, we're going to get some support out of this one." ... Until someone said, "Why don't you turn

around?" They had just called each other!

But I'm very glad the legislation was passed and that some of our people were able to help you out on that.

And now I'd like to introduce Ann Maguire.

Ann Maguire:

I just want to say that I certainly would be in favor of overweight legislation. It's pretty difficult to talk about issues around the women's community after hearing Kim Crawford Harvey speak in a very wonderful way, challenging all of you to be the best woman that you can. I loved her talk today. I thought it was very challenging, not only for you, but for me, and everybody else that was here to hear what she was saying. Since she used all my best quotes and best lines, I want to change things around a little bit from what I was going to say.

I'm really glad to see all of you here today because it means to me that you're interested in being there for one another, and forming a sense of community. I think that that's most important. I think it's very heartening to see the growth of your community, of your caring for one another, and I think it's most important because the fight for rights has not been easy for many people. As a matter of fact, all anybody wants to do is to be treated equally. But that has not been very easy. It's only when we've been deprived of our rights that we've had to go out and fight for them.

I want to go back because it's interesting to look a little bit as to where we've been in order to look at where we need to go. About 20 years ago I used to do some counseling at what was called the Homophile Community Health Service in Boston. Every now and then someone would come in because it was the only place they felt comfortable to come to. It was the only place that someone might understand that they had a need to crossdress, or were concerned about whether or not they felt the need to explore reassignment surgery. It was the only place that they had to come. There weren't conventions that were happening at that time. There weren't, for the most part, publications that existed. It was one person here - and a one person there - and one person over there. And I think that people were not very much aware of one another.

I used to do a radio program in the 70's called "Gayway". As a matter of fact it was at John Silber's WBUR. John Silber is the president of Boston University, and is the one who is yelling so much about the cost of the sexual reassignment surgery that just happened. But anyway, we did a program for years in the 70's called "Gayway". I remember Ariadne Kane coming on and talking about issues of concern to people who were crossdressers, and the phone lines would just light up the whole time. After we finished the show, they would light up for another couple of hours...people who didn't want to talk on the show, but wanted to know that there was someone else out there who they could talk to, who had the same thoughts, and were facing some of the very same difficulties. It was sort of like a coming out and making contact with one other person. And that's not so very long ago.

If I look at the women's movement back in the early 70's, I can remember a big concert and a all-day workshop for women, sponsored by Channel 4. And Helen Reddy was singing, "I Am Woman, Hear Me Loud." Her song was popular at that time--it was the number one hit among women. And at that time, we had just passed the Equal Rights Amendment in Massachusetts. We only had a few more states to go, and I think all of us absolutely firmly believed that the Equal Rights Amendment would be passed. All it was, was a simple matter of justice. Women should be treated the same as men, should be paid equally, should be all kinds of things. So, it was only a matter of time before we would have an Equal Rights Amendment in the United States. We don't have one. It's a matter of economics. It's a matter of, "I will discriminate against women because I can make more money by doing it."

I also want to go way back to the beginning of the lesbian and gay movement. In 1972 Barney Frank (I think some of you might have heard of him, he is a Congressman from Massachusetts and is an openly gay man) first ran for public office as a state representative in Massachusetts. He said, "I'm going to introduce a gay rights bill in the statehouse." Some of us perked up our ears and we went and worked for him. A couple of years later Elaine Noble ran for public office and won -- becoming the first openly gay state representative in the United States. And we thought, "We're going to have a Gay Rights Bill any day now. I mean, look at these victories, and it's only a simple matter of justice." [In] 1989 it finally happened in Massachusetts, only the second state in the United States to have a gay rights bill, the other state being Wisconsin.

Interestingly enough, in Wisconsin, you know what made the difference to get the bill passed? The clergy thought it was a simple matter of justice and lobbied for the passage of a bill. Can you imagine if the clergy in every state took on the issue of women's rights, rights for lesbians and gay men, rights for anybody who is crossdressing, and said, "We need to do and pass legislation because it's a simple matter of fairness and we're going to lobby for it." It would be passed throughout the United States. That's how it happened in Wisconsin.

So anyway, a long time ago, I think I was a little naive, but movements were just starting at that time. And I think from that point in time we've come a very long way, but we still have a very long way to go. Many of you, I think, as some of you have begun to live as women, have found that you can go to the same job, and do you know what, you make about 60 cents on the dollar. Now it's amazing to me why they take 40 cents off when you put a skirt on! I haven't figured it out yet. Something about I'm not capable of doing that work any longer.

How about, you're walking down the street, you're grabbed, and someone wants to, in some way, sexually assault you. You are brutally beaten. And you know what? They ask you what you did to provoke it! What did I do to provoke being assaulted? Nothing. Simply by walking down the street. I am made further a victim by other people asking me what I did to provoke it. We've got a long way to go.

Healthcare. Access to good healthcare. How many of you would like access to good healthcare? I remember years ago people on the black market trying to find ways to do injections to find what was available and who they could talk with. Where can you go for good quality healthcare? Where can you go if you want hormones, or cosmetic surgery? Where can you go for good quality sexual reassignment surgery? It's the same for women. In the United States, there are 150,000 women every year that are diagnosed with breast cancer. And for many of them, they're told that mastectomy is the answer. And in many cases it doesn't have to be.

Mental Health Care. How many of you have ever been told in your life, "Hey, you know, get married, go home, get married. It'll take care of everything."? They used to say that to lesbians and gay men. "Go meet somebody and get married. Just you try it on, if it fits after a while I guess or something. You have to try on I don't know how many people, and you'll be OK... you'll be cured". Wouldn't you like to go and talk to somebody and have access to good mental health care, where you could go and talk about issues and how they have affected you? If there were issues of grief in your life, you could talk about them as opposed to "Stop dressing, it'll go away." I mean, that's crazy. Give up who I am? I happen to be a lesbian, and give up that, and to you know, marry a man, and I'll never have any other concern? I have a HELL of a lot of concerns, I think!

Access to good health care, and good mental health care .... we haven't yet reached the point where they are available to people.

I think that, when I look at different movements, and what we have in common, and why it's so important to me, I want to impart a few of those things to you. It's a feeling of not being alone, and I think many of us in our lives have felt very much alone. It's how important it is for you to be able to come here today, and the feeling that I'm not fighting for my rights all by myself. It's when I talk about being discriminated against somebody else understands. When I talk about the need for good quality healthcare, someone else understands. I think the thing is that we're all in this together. You're not in it just separately. We're all in this together. We're talking about a bill (SB 933) that will very much discriminate against all of you. We can't allow that to happen. We can't allow discrimination to happen. It's wrong.

By being together, we are able to change laws, and we're able to change attitudes. How many of you for a long time, found it very difficult to realize your potential as a human being? And especially as a woman? Does putting on that dress or skirt make you less smart? Does it make you less capable? Does it make you less concerned with the problems of the world? Does it mean you only want to be concerned with the kitchen? I didn't realize any of that. I think what has happened is the women's movement has at least allowed us to have a strong sense of pride of who we are. And all of you need to take a strong sense of pride in who you are and what you can do.

I wanted to just basically say that we have more in common than we have for differences. We basically all want the same thing. We want to have the freedom to be able to be the best that we can be. And we're only going to get that by working together. You know, a sense of community starts very small and grows, and I want to urge you to think about really building a caring, loving community. I know that you have to do it. We had to do it, because no one else gave us our rights. We have to fight for them every single day. And we need to fight together.

It's sort of funny. A song I haven't heard for a very very long time was playing just as I was just pulling into the parking lot. The song was, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". And that to me, really makes an incredible amount of difference. We have to do this together, it can't just be lesbians and gay men fighting for their rights, people with AIDS fighting for their rights, women fighting for their rights, people who are crossdressing, people who are undergoing gender reassignment surgery, it can't just be you out there all by yourself. We need to do this together. And, if we say hello to one another, we'll find out that we can.

So I thank all of you for coming here today, caring enough to begin building a community with one another. It's a very wonderful thing to do. Thank you.

[applause]

Merissa: OK, we're going to have about 20 minutes for questions and answers. This session is being taped, so we're not going to be able to hear your questions from the floor. They had the foresight to only give us one microphone here. So what we're going to do is, anybody who has a question and answer, I would like to have you come up at least within spitting distance of this microphone to make your comments and ask your questions, and I'll ask the same from the panel.

Questions & Answers:

Q: Glenda Jones: Sister Mary Elizabeth, since you are an Episcopal nun, presumably you have read the Bible. The question that I have is this: That as an ex-fundamentalist lay minister, I have read Paul's letters. One of the frequent points that would be brought up is the point about effeminate men, the point about men and women who I believe "flame after each other" is the way that Paul put it, and the fact that a woman is to stay home, I mean after church. A woman is to sit down, ask her husband anything about the service, and her husband is to explain it to her. That is the basis behind an awful lot of this homophobia. I'm wondering what your answer to that would be.

A: Sr. Mary Elizabeth: Well, surprisingly, much of the homophobia we have today is not Biblically based, even though there's a tendency for us to believe that. If we go back to the original language of the Bible, talking in Paul, writing in the Greek, the word that he used in First Corinthians 6:9 was "Malakos", meaning "soft" or "spineless" in a literal translation. It's interesting that in the King James Version, it was translated as "effeminate", and each new translation as we came into the modern day world got a little bit more homophobic. First it was "sexual offenders", then "the sexually immoral", somewhere along the line they added "homosexual", and then came "homosexual offenders", and the latest version is now, "homosexual perverts". All from a word that loosely translated means "soft" or "spineless" and has no relation. Does that answer your question?

Let me go one more step. It's interesting that, in the early Church, the Church was not homophobic, that the first civil law involving homosexuality and prohibiting it, didn't occur until 533 A.D. under Justinian, and the Church opposed it. In the same verse that Paul condemns, allegedly condemns homosexuals, he condemns "greedy people". But it's amazing in our history there is no history of us ever burning greedy people at the stake. So our fears, our homophobia, doesn't come from the Bible, it comes from outside the Bible.

Q: Jennifer Wells: My question is for Ann. The question was brought up at lunch about approaching the lesbian and gay community and the women's community. Would you have any tips or recommendations for our people as to how to go about approaching, in an effective manner, so we can network with you?

A: Ann Maguire: I think that one of the things that Kim [Crawford-Harvey] said today was to start one-by-one and [then] go into groups and participating is very helpful. Also, I think there's much more of an awareness recently, especially with the AIDS epidemic, of reaching out to many more people, and having them become involved. It's become a much broader fight, and we need to bring all of our allies together.

I think there have been lots of difficulties over the years with women's centers and women-only dances and who's a woman and who's not a woman, and all kinds of issues that come up, that really have acted as barriers in the past, and really have separated, I think, both groups. I think that you're still going to find some of them. To say that you won't, I think, is wrong. But I think we can start to begin to make some of those friendships.

For a long time, if we look at some of the friends the lesbian and gay community have made, it's only been recently, and it's been through a lot of trying. I think, thank God, that some of what has happened, and the strength of the women's movement is in who they've reached out to. They've had a tremendous amount of influence now in getting a lot of stuff done around the AIDS epidemic as quickly as it has been done, even though it hasn't been done very quickly at all. But again, I would say to you, each city, each town, and each group has their own political climate. You sort of need to figure out where you can start, where you can begin. In some cases it might be with the Lesbian and gay community, in some cases it might be with NOW, or a variety of other organizations. Don't allow them to reject you. Try to figure out how you can in fact be included. And call people on it. You know, don't let them just say, "I need to leave." Call people on it.

Q: Catherine Andrews: My question is for David. You said that you would not change behaviors for the sake of the media. Yet, it's the media who do print things like, "Gay transvestite child-molester", and what gay and transvestite have got to do with being a child molester I have no idea. But it's this attitude. The untoward behavior feeds the media, and the media literally controls everything, including that idiot Dan Rather. But it's these people, a very limited number of people really control the attitudes of millions. I believe we should exercise our rights with constraint ["restraint"?]. It's sort of like, everybody's got a right to skydive,

including blind people, but you don't see blind people skydiving. It scares the hell out of the dog.. but.. The idea is, there's just some things you don't do. There's a time and a place for everything. Your comments please.

A: **David Lafontaine:** Well, I think that one of my biases was coming through, and that's I'm very pro-media, compared to a lot of people. That's having worked as a reporter, and generally having a focus toward communication. I don't think we should be scared away because there are abuses with the media. Compared to the legislature or the government, I think the media -- there's a lot more truth going on in terms the print media and television and radio. Definitely there are abuses, but I think we can learn to deal with those, not by running away, but simply by plunging in, and learning how to get our message out. And it is a very delicate and subtle process.

Essentially what you want to do with the media is frame the story, so that a successful story is one that doesn't have any of those surprises. And you can learn to do that through developing the relationships with the media people. But, I don't think we should shy away simply because we're afraid that there will be the wrong spin on something. And I think too that the more silent we are, the more likely we're going to be vulnerable. It's when we're laying low that we're going to be attacked. That's been my experience. Whereas, if we get our message out first, then we define ourselves for people. And our message will be the one that will be remembered. Whereas, if we wait, if we're quiet, then we're dependent on what other people say about us and so we have to respond to that; that puts us in a weak position. So, I think that those stories, you know, "Homosexual child-molester" -- it's when people have been quiet, and then someone pounces on us because of that. But I think our silence makes people suspicious, makes people think that we've got something to hide. So I would say that the proactive approach is the one that's going to be successful, as far as long-term education.

Q: Janice Rupard: This is more of a comment to Kathy, but it's consistent with what you're saying. San Antonio's got a very sensationalist press, and headlines like: "Gay transvestite child-molester" are not really uncommon down there. But in the past four years, as correspondent for Boulton and Park, every time that something like that has been brought to my attention, I've written to the various editors of the newspaper, and it's been productive. And every time they do that, I write them a letter to the executive editor and the city editor, and it doesn't happen again until they get a new metro beat reporter and then, another letter, and it's OK. So be aware that your local newspaper is responsive to letters.

Merissa: -- One quick comment. When IFGE first opened up its offices, we sent out a press release to every newspaper and radio station. We received a considerable amount of press coverage, including the Associated Press, the Boston Globe, and much more. None of it was negative. The press coverage has been a tremendous value for us, not only in our outreach work, but for good will with the neighbors in our community, in our town, on our street, in the police department, with the fire department... with everybody we're involved with. So I'm, not down on the media.

JoAnn Fraser: -- I'm from Peoria, Illinois, and on Superbowl Sunday of this year, the Peoria Journal-Star did an article with my permission, including pictures of me. This was probably one of the most uplifting articles that I have had. It was not particularly negative, although there were a lot of people who felt negative about it. And I agree with everything you said about how you feel about yourself after an article like this is printed. You just feel like the world has lifted a weight off of your shoulders. Yeah, there was a lot of surprises at work. I work for a large company. If anybody has ever heard of Caterpillar, I work for Caterpillar in management there. I am part of the management team, and I have just been transferred to, of all places, general offices, as a result of this. Yeah, there were a few doors that closed because of this, but you know what my supervisor told me? He said, "You may look at those as missed opportunities, but you didn't want to work for those people anyway." [applause]

Merissa: -- I heard a very interesting story, I hope that she is going to tell it. Recently, we had a number of very outstanding ladies put on what I consider to be one of the, if not the best show that's been on any talk show. That was the Sally Jessie Raphael Show, which was initially coordinated by Jane Fee, from the IFGE office. Janice was involved with that, and it was very very successful. Jane told me the aftereffects of going public, and doing so with some pride and some personal integrity. Would you be willing to tell us that story please?

Jane: -- First of All, I would like to say, that along the line of who do we contact with the gay community, the lesbian community, and get their support, you have to be on the offensive. You have to go to them. Don't wait for them to come to you. Don't try to attack them necessarily in a bar or someplace. I've gone to the gay and lesbian newspapers, for instance, in the Twin Cities, and elicited the support of their editorial staff to do articles about us, to run calendars of our events, and other things there. So we're going to get some positive press from that area, from them.

When it came to the Sally Jessie Raphael Show, I thought about doing that show for about 30 seconds, and then made

the decision to do it. Before, well, I had to contact my children. And it didn't really make any difference what they said, but I at least asked their opinion as to whether or not they would be hurt by my appearing on national TV. And all of them said that was fine with them. Two of them even volunteered to go with me. I didn't take advantage of that, but I had their support. I have the support of one ex-wife; the other one, I couldn't care. But anyway, during the show, one of the questions that was asked about our jobs and so forth, what we did, and whether anybody ever knew before. I made the statement on the show that nobody ever knew before that day..., which was essentially true, that I had kept it completely secret from my work experience.

I'm in the position right now of being a consultant in industrial marketing. I also have a distributorship in skin and hair care products. Consultant, you know, is an unemployed person. But I do happen to also be doing some consulting work actually for industrial corporations. And, as a result of this work that I have done, it's caused me to travel throughout the east, we'll say Mississippi east of there, and I've seen a great number of my former business associates, ex-competitors, people in government, people in trade associations. Every one of these people, after finishing whatever the business was that I had to do with them, I asked them if they were aware or had seen me on the Sally Jessie Raphael Show. And there were very few of them that had. And anyway, they asked what the show was about, and of course I reached in my pocket and pulled out photographs and showed them what it was all about. The reaction to that initially was interesting, but the interesting thing was the aftereffect, later on. In one case, before I got home from a trip, I had a phone call waiting for me in a government office in Washington, saying that this company that I'd already seen wanted to see me again. And I went back to them, and they offered me a job!

That's not the end of it. I found out within a couple of weeks after that, that another company offered me a job, three of the people in government recommended me as a consultant, and another company offered me an equity position in the company, part ownership, without me investing any funds, to take over and run part of their operation. And, it's really been such a positive experience for me that I have to be careful to warn others that they may not necessarily achieve the same results that I have seen. So you have to do a risk assessment as to where you are. Consider the most damaging thing that you believe could possibly happen to you and decide whether or not you're willing to accept that if it does.

Alison Laing: -- I just wanted to share a success story in this symbiotic synergism that exists. Renaissance is fortunate in having as one of its founding members a crossdresser who is also gay. And not everybody in the world likes what Paula has to say, but I know Paul, and Paul is a caring, nurturing individual with a lovely daughter and a wonderful person. Paul has made it possible for Renaissance to now have crossdressers represented on the Mayor's Commissions for Sexual Minorities in Philadelphia. We have been nominated for the Lambda Award, which is given out by the gay community to people who serve this community, again, because Paul has brought us into the gay community. We get free advertising in the Philadelphia Gay News..., we get so many references, it's just fantastic. All I can say, is, our synergy has been a fantastic blessing, and I just want to go on record -- Paul and I fight like cats and dogs over so many things. I come from the opposite social, political, religious, spectrum as Paul, but we vote the same way on the Board, because we care for our fellow human beings. Our reasons may be different, but the results are the same; and I think that's where I think the unity can be. If we truly care about or fellow human beings; male, female and all in-between, that's important, and we've been very successful. I just wish everyone could have that same success. I feel sorry for those who can't. [applause]

Emily Sheldon: -- It seems to me that the press in this country will never lack for spectacular stories about almost anyone. Given the combined population of the United States and Canada we have nearly a quarter of a billion people. Almost any conceivable combination of mental and physical characteristics is liable to occur somewhere, and daily people are going to be falling out of their trees all over the place. So there's no end of outrages to publicize. Perhaps what needs to be put out is that simple fact... this is a huge country, and one person doing something once in a whole year out of 250 million people certainly isn't characteristic of the group or the nation as a whole.

Merissa: -- Are there any more questions? OK, that's it. I would like to thank the panel for being with us this afternoon.

[applause]

EDITORIAL:

PERCEPTIONS OF A NEWCOMER

by: Cheryl Dann, Ph.D.
(NY-2263)

At the IFGE 'Coming Together' convention (1990) my eyes and mind opened to see the world--at last. My fifty year-old impressions were that masculinity and femininity were opposite ends of a continuum, and that one must be one or the other. This fragmented, individualized view obscured the fact that they are integrated dimensions and that one can be both, each in a strong way. The assumed polarity of perceived opposites indicates only poverty of experience.

We tend to interpret substantive data gained through the five senses in a way which can lead one to seeing separate entities. We are constantly cutting life into little pieces and sorting them into separate compartments, then wondering why we cannot understand how anything works as a whole. How one views the world affects how one treats it, and hence how it reacts. If we as males view femininity as separate from us, it soon will be. The senses can thus form the walls of a perceptual prison, obscuring the fact that one person can be both masculine and feminine. Fear needs to hold on to separate, non-integrated, non-complex ideas, for it lends security to one's assumptions. But to be obsessed by only one interpretation of the facts is to deny complexity, and the essence of tyranny is the denial of complexity.

To perceive oneness in gender possibilities requires courage, for one must relinquish notions of dominance, shed inhibitions, and inquire and explore rather than exploit. To be attuned to oneness requires neither excessive smartness nor cleverness, but humility. The irony is that with a mind capable of perceiving the unity in humanity, people choose instead to remain isolated and convinced of their conventional convictions.

Francis Bacon long ago said that "Man prefers to believe what he prefers to be true." But such preferences can limit one's ability to relate to life's complexity, what psychology refers to as our "left brain" capabilities to be exact, pick apart, analyze and be departmental, but fail to develop our "right brain" capabilities to integrate, synthesize, empathize, and be holistic, flexible, and creative.

Human compassion and understanding are woven of many threads. To refuse to see the whole fabric is to limit one's perspectives in a search for easy answers. But the world is full of simple, easy to understand wrong answers!

As my sense of self has expanded, my vision has become more panoramic instead of telescopic. Instead of seeing more and more of less and less, I perceive more of everything together. As I do, focus clarifies and the unity of human experience appears independent of black or white, young or old, masculine or feminine.

My new perceptions of the unity in human gender sometimes frightens other people who are more comfortable with segregation. No longer am I on the outside of femininity looking in. For too many years I acted as if blinded, denying Cheryl a place in reality. If nearly everyone else was blinded by gender restrictions, it was easy and non-threatening for me to feel secure in that also. But I have become discontent with the cultural illusion of the separation of masculinity and femininity, and while others seem to prefer to keep their heads in the sand, I surrender to the powerful force of an inner reality of linkage.

A major ecological principle is that everything is hitched to everything else. Why should man as a part of natural ecosystems be different? Through humble recognition of unity we can cooperate with nature either in the form of natural ecosystems or internal biological and social realities.

Others seem to be afraid to see what I am seeing, exhibiting an almost phobic avoidance of synergistic forces, as if isolation provides security. I know that not everyone is interested in gender integration, and certainly crossdressing is not a necessary avenue for doing so. But to

resist "coming out", that is, accepting one's masculinity and femininity, is to perpetuate lack of understanding and social pain. Although crossdressing is a dramatic way of accomplishing this goal, there are probably many techniques of developing cross-gender competencies.

Whereas we must listen carefully to the collective social song, that does not mean that we have to sing it. Paul McCartney asked us to "Take a sad song and make it better." If our inner song taps to the fancy of crossdressing, then have a ball, for the results will make one a better person at whatever one is doing.

The results of gender integration remove from human motivation the intent to dominate, so relationships are between persons as persons, not persons as objects (black or white, masculine or feminine, etc.). As a recent television advertisement said, "How do you treat a handicapped person? As a person!"

As this integrative reality of the oneness of persons comes crashing in on one, the perception transfers from micro-moments of creative pleasure (evenings, weekends) to the rest of life. And in the long-term holistic view, the micro-moments are of minor significance. These moments of self-expression affirm one's more global commitment to the welfare of others. In the words of Peter, Paul, and Mary, "How many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry?", and, "How many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?" Answers to these questions are not just "Blowin' in the Wind" any longer.

As crossdressers, we are answering these questions for ourselves and for other human groups by transferring our understanding to them. As the world becomes more complex, we may become viewed as a bellwether in an international tide of human integration. World political systems drift together as democracies become more socialistic and communism self-destructs and moves toward democracy. Capitalist economies become more centralized as socialist economies capitalize. Will it take an extra-terrestrial attack for world humanity to perceive its own unity, or can we do it because we want to? If we expect people to remain as they were, we deny change and life eddies in a swirl, always ending up where it started. Being an optimist, I see other possibilities.

As I looked at life before coming out, I asked as Peggy Lee did, "Is that all there is?" The glorious answer is NO! I now perceive no dissonance between masculine and feminine, and in realizing that they can be reconciled in unity, I realize that so can other seemingly disparate issues. I will work toward such accomplishment. On a personal level I know, as did Tootsie, that "I make a better man as a woman than I did as a man."--meaning a whole person perceives and accommodates complexities in life better than does a part person. Having passed "middle-age", I had begun to look back on my past for positive images, to dwell on the memories--a depressing trend. Now, I am looking forward instead of back; forward to the next event where I can see kindred friends again, forward to the rest of an exciting and rewarding life, forward to the next opportunity to help someone.

Let's raise our glasses together and toast cheers for Cheryl.

[END]

EDITORIAL:

(Edited from the FIESTA Chapter Newsletter, June 1990, published by FIESTA, the New Mexico Chapter of Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 1842, Farmington, NM 87499)

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

by

Donna E. Mobley (NM-1734)
(AKA "The Sarge")

I came back from the IFGE 'Coming Together' convention in Boston with the intention of writing something deep and profound about the "meaning of it all". But after getting back on the job and attacking the pile of work that accumulated while I was gone, "something profound" got moved from the front burner to the back burner and then into the freezer. Now that I've had a chance to look back on that week with a little time and distance to put it in focus, two events stand out in my mind. Neither of them seemed terribly far-reaching at the time, but they now seem to be having a greater influence on me than anything else that took place there. It's going to take me quite a while to digest them and find a place for them in my general fund of knowledge (as they say in some quarters).

The first was a chance to get to know some of the female-to-male crossdressers and TS's. I've not had an opportunity to get to know any of these folks before, and I was curious to know if their life experiences were similar to ours. I had a few chances to chat with some of them during the week, but I got a real insight into some of their lives when Shirley and I sat in on one of their evening sessions at the close of the week's activities.

We were watching a videotaped interview of an F-to-M TS, and I was amazed at how similar our stories and childhood experiences were. Just change the gender-specific phrases 180 degrees around and the words I heard could have been spoken by any one of us. I turned to Holly Devor who was sitting next to me, and whispered something about this being like looking in a mirror, and suddenly it was as though all the lights in the room had been turned on! I suddenly realized why I had felt a little uncomfortable around a couple of the guys.

There were one or two who seemed to be working terribly hard at being masculine; in fact, they seemed to have gone a little too far, were working a little too hard at it. They had seized on a few of the most obvious trappings of what our culture considers masculine, and it seemed that they had built their whole personae around those few characteristics. it somehow seemed almost a parody of men. I recall being a little amused by this, but as I watched that video, I suddenly felt very ashamed of myself for feeling that way. When I looked at the young men in that room, I was seeing a mirror image of myself, and, I suspect, most other crossdressers as well.

Haven't we all, at some point early in our growth, fixed our attention on those characteristics we find most feminine and exaggerated them all out of proportion? In fact, don't we continue to do that even without being conscious of it? Instead of emulating the best of what we see in women, don't we sometimes fall into a parody of what our cultural upbringing has labeled "feminine"? I can begin now to imagine what some of us must look like to the genetic females in our orbit. Instead of emulating the best, we often caricature the most obvious. It's no wonder that a few of the GF's get angry with us.

But I suppose we all have to pass through that stage. At some point, presumably, the pendulum will find its center. As that other "person" begins to take on a reality, those external characteristics become a little less exaggerated, until the Superficial Outside and the Essential Inside become one real person, be it masculine, feminine, or a little of both. We no longer need that caricature to show the world who we really are, once that person comes from within instead of without.

Dan Riley (coordinator of the F-M program) and his friends shared a little of their world with me for a few hours, but more importantly, they turned a mirror back on me that showed a reflection that I didn't like. I learned as much about myself as I did about them, and for that, Dan, I'm in your debt.

The second "event" was a little more traumatic, and will probably have more far-reaching consequences for me in a personal sense.

The week's activities proceeded along nicely, without any major problems, until Saturday. A huge wedding reception at the hotel seemed to have the hotel staff's complete attention, and as a result, many conference sessions had been moved, some of the audio/visual equipment wasn't where it was supposed to be, and there was a general state of confusion. Efforts to sort things out only seemed to result in more confusion, and by lunch it was clear that we were just going to have to make things up as we went.

But another crisis arose during lunch. Yvonne Cook (Convention Finance Coordinator) descended on me, clearly angry that none of the audio/visual equipment reserved for Dan Riley's meetings had shown up (a problem I thought I had resolved earlier in the day). I was obviously on both Yvonne's and Dan's Hit List, and I was mad at them for being mad at me, mad at the hotel staff for dropping the ball, mad at myself for not following through with the staff. Somewhere between the soup and the entree, the glow that had been growing all week disappeared. With everyone getting stressed out, with emotions getting a little raw at times, it just didn't seem wise to me to try dealing with any of the immediate problems. I walked away from my lunch and spent a long time walking around the pool and the parking lot, trying to calm down. And it slowly dawned on me why I'd been having trouble dealing with what should have been a simple problem. "Donna" can't deal with anger, hers or anyone else's.

Anger is one of our most basic emotions. It gets right to the core of who and what we are. No matter how well we present ourselves as our "other" selves, those most basic of emotions will always reflect who we <u>really</u> are way down deep. I suppose that, eventually, the "other" may become so much a part of our totality that it will reach all the way back there to that core, but right now Donna hasn't learned to function at that level.

So I went up to my room, left Donna in a pile with the dirty laundry, took a long hot shower, and climbed into the only set of boy clothes I'd brought. A couple of people on the staff were about to meet "The Sarge".

I quickly discovered that The Sarge got a lot more respect than Donna did, and I've begun to understand why women get so angry when men won't take them seriously. I hadn't experienced that before, and it's given me a lot to think about. Fixing the problems with the afternoon schedule took about 10 minutes, once I cornered the right person and explained that his immediate attention to the problem would make me very happy.

I went to the lounge, and over a cold drink I tried to figure out why I hadn't been able to handle the problem in that other role. I had begun to feel that I was pulling together my different sides, and it was depressing to discover that I hadn't really gotten very far at all. While I was sitting there, one of the people from the hotel staff handed me a phone message that a close family member who had planned to attend the banquet with me would be unable to attend. My mood was sinking steadily, and I was very close to just calling off the rest of the week and retiring to my room until my plane was due to leave. The glow was gone.

At that point, a member of the conference staff walked past me, and when I said hello, she returned a look that told me she didn't have the slightest idea who I was! We had sat across the table every morning in meetings, and worked with each other all week, and I was a stranger. For the next hour or so, I just walked around the halls, poking my head into a couple of the workshops in session, and was amused to discover that almost no one had connected me with Donna.

I found Yvonne in Jim Bridges' chair having her hair done, and we apologized to each other for some heated words over lunch. I guess the stress had finally gotten to a lot of us, and with the week's activities winding down, we could begin to think about relaxing. I was scheduled for a makeover right after Yvonne left, and it seemed pointless to go back up to change, so Jim went to work rebuilding Donna as she met there in "his" clothes. By the time he was done, Donna had resurfaced in a much better mood. By the time the banquet got underway that evening, the day's chaotic emotions were completely forgotten.

I think a whole new person came into being that afternoon. My two halves came a lot closer together. If The Sarge hadn't been there, close to the surface, I'm not sure Donna could have found a way to sort out what should have been a very simple solution to the day's crisis. If Donna hadn't been there, close to the surface, The Sarge almost certainly would have given in to the primal urge to punch someone's lights out. Somewhere in between there's that essential ME that I've been looking for, something made up of the best of both of us. I found a few new clues that Saturday, a few new parts for this Tinker Toy construction I'm building. I'm finding new ways to put them together.

Dan Riley and the guys in his group helped me see myself from a whole new perspective, and a minor crisis in room scheduling brought me face-to-face with some cold, hard facts about myself. We came away from Boston a whole different person, hopefully an new and somewhat improved model....and isn't that what it was all about?

[END]

Transcript
Keynote Address, by Bette Lee Johnson
February 24, 1990
Texas T-Party, San Antonio, Texas

[Bette is a member of the IFGE Board of Directors, Coordinator for the international 'Coming Together - Working Together' convention, and an officer with Delta Omega Chapter of Tri-Ess. Those who wish to contact her may do so by writing: Bette Lee Johnson, c/o Delta Omega, P.O. Box 1021, Arlington, TX 76004-1021]

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

by: Bette Lee Johnson (TX-0543)

"THEY WERE THE BEST OF TIMES ...
THEY WERE THE WORST OF TIMES.

Charles Dickens wrote these words as the prologue to his marvelous book, "A Tale of Two Cities" which described the French Revolution, and the people in it, and their trials and tribulations.

Today, we shall talk not of the French Revolution, but of our revolution, and the people in it, and our trials and tribulations.

"ARE THESE THE BEST OF TIMES ...
ARE THESE THE WORST OF TIMES --- ?

We cannot make a judgment about these times unless we have something to compare. Dr. Docter would tell us that we must have 'data' on both sides of the present in order to make an enlightened judgment. We must, then, examine the past and then examine the future, in order to judge the present. Now how can we do that? We need to journey in time, in the fourth dimension if you will, to gain a knowledge of the past and the future so that we can decide which were the best of times and which were the worst of times.

Last year, at the "Be All You Want To Be" Convention in Chicago, the keynote speaker was Dr. Sheila Kirk. In her speech, sheila borrowed a magic time machine from H.G. Wells. I contacted Sheila, and she said that we could borrow her time machine, with apologies to H.G. Wells, provided I said to give all of you her love, and her regrets for not being here this evening. She was with us last year, but had a conflict of dates in Pittsburgh this year with her Lambda group.

So come on aboard with me, as we journey in the fourth dimension. We shall not travel far, for it is not necessary. We shall journey only 20 years back, and then 20 years forward. We shall go back to 1970, and then we shall move forward to the year 2010. Oh my, 2010. That sounds so far away, but it's only 20 years. To quote my namesake, Bette Davis; "Fasten your seat belts, ... it's going to be a bumpy night!"

Well that was a smooth flight. Here we are in San Antonio, Texas, in February, 1970, and downtown San Antonio is under construction. But... this is red-neck town! I do believe

that we cross-dressers are in trouble. This town, and its attitudes are provincial. I think we better maintain a real low profile, ladies, for I suspect we can get in trouble with the law. I don't know, but I suspect that it is against the law to be cross-dressed as we are. Shall we go to the mall? There aren't any! I think we will be in trouble in the stores, unless we pass perfectly, and who does? Anyone want to go to a restaurant? That sounds like trouble looking for a place to happen.

While our time machine has only shown us San Antonio, perhaps there is someone who can tell us of these times. There is, I suspect, only one such person, and she is the grandmother of us all, Dr. Virginia Prince. She, in this era, was trying to bring cross-dressers together. We were all here in 1970, and most of us cross-dressed. The problem was, we were all so far back in the closet we couldn't even see the door. Somehow, individual cross-dressers found each other, and in cities like Los Angeles, four or five would get together, and Virginia would find them. She was delighted to find a group of five cross-dressers with which to meet, and ten was an absolute ecstacy. Fear was rampant, and there essentially was no organization. While Virginia did much, there was little hope of "opening the shutters".

Now are these "the best of times"? hardly. It would seem that these qualify for the "worst of times".

Now let us climb back aboard Sheila's magic time machine, and set our destination for the year 2010, and here we go.

We have just landed, again in San Antonio, Texas, and in the year 2010, and Oh My! What a change!! We are in the midst of a modern city, but downtown San Antonio is still under construction! The whole world seems to be one big shopping mall. Well it is said, when the going gets tough the tough go shopping. As we walk through the malls, there is no problem. What happened to "red-neck Texas"? It's gone. Oh I imagine we could find vestiges of it in some of the small out-of-the-way towns, but not here in this metropolis. People look at us, and no doubt read us, but just don't seem to care. There seems to be an attitude with the public that we are doing what we ant, and expressing ourselves as must we do, and that seems to be fine. Restaurants and clubs, well of course. Welcome ladies. Table for six? Please follow me. Is this suitable? Enjoy your dinner. Stigma and discrimination seem to be gone.

What of clubs such as Boulton and Park, or Delta Omega from Dallas? They exist, but their need seems to be social, not supportive. Since it is not a problem to cross-dress here in the year 2010, these organizations seem to be gatherings of like-minded people, without the need for "support" functions. As Society does, the cross-dresser seems to have been assimilated into the mainstream of society, as we have seen happen so often with ethnic classes in this country over the centuries. What of national support organizations, such as Tri-Ess, or the International Foundation for Gender Education? Well here is a lady of 2010, and she tells us that Tri-Ess had major difficulties in 1991 and 1992, because it had problems trying to adapt to changing times. IFGE is still with us, but its thrust had changed significantly since the '90s.

So now we have a society, here in the year 2010, where we cross-dressers are considered normal citizens, to exercise our rights of self-expression as must we do, with no stigma from society.

These then, must truly be "the best of times".

I don't think so!

Let us climb back aboard Sheila's magic time machine, and journey back to 1990.

Well, it's good to get back to the here and now, and we can return Sheila's time machine to the barn because we will not be needing it anymore. Of course, downtown San Antonio is still under construction.

What of the here and now? We don't have the euphoria of 2010, nor do we have the antagonism of the '70s. We have an emerging society and an emerging acceptance. But there is much to do. We are an idea whose time has come! But ideas just don't translate into fruition. There is so much work to do to make things happen.

For thousands of years, man and woman wanted to fly. They could not. We have all seen pictures from the 1800s of futile attempts to fly. Then, in the decade of 1900 to 1910, man flew. Men flew on both sides of the ocean, and without synergistic efforts. These people were independent of each other, but man flew. The Wright Brothers flew. Bleriot flew. Simply put it was time to fly! It was an idea whose time had come. At the start of the 1900s, travel was by horse, either iron or four-legged. Today, if we are going to Dallas, we crawl on a plane, and an hour later, were are there. Flying, then, is a routine thing for us. Where is the excitement of the 1900s ... the sense of making it happen, the joy of being a part of it? The sheer fun of making it a reality.

There is a time for everything. We are an idea whose time has come. Our time is now. We have emerged from the dark ages of the '70s. Clubs are being organized ... more each day. Some 150 clubs exist today in this country, like Boulton & Park in San Antonio, Delta Omega in Dallas, Tiffany in Boston, Fiesta in Albuquerque, Tau Chi in Houston. Cross-dressers are finding each other in exponentially increasing numbers. Tiffany has 500 members, as does ETVC in San Francisco. Supportive clubs exist in every major city, and

some not-so-major cities like Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jackson, Mississippi, Farmington, New Mexico, and Hisperia, California.

Speaking of Fiesta, our sister club in New Mexico, we Texas ladies know about people in New Mexico ... signs in the ski areas that say "Ski Texas", and the like. Well the president of Fiesta is Ms. Donna Mobley, and she says that Texans are pretty decent folk, once you get them into a dress!

Statistics tell us that there are six million cross-dressers just like us out there, who think they are all alone and unique and different, and don't know that our clubs exist. Well they are not alone, they are not unique --- different, yes, and vive la difference! Our clubs do exist, and we desperately need to reach out to those who desperately need us. It is a desperate situation to be alone like this, and lives can be at stake. I know of two lives that I believe we have saved through our club in Dallas, just by "being there".

But ... we won't reach these people, or achieve the euphoria of 2010 unless we collectively work at it to make it happen. Two things ... first, join your local club, and second, help your club serve its members and help with outreach. Our idea will be a reality if we all work to make it happen. We must, we must contribute to our cause.

Dance with the one who 'brung ya'. Each of you were helped by our community to be here tonight. Help the community that helped you. Pay your dues!

American Express tells us that, "Membership has its privileges." membership also has its obligations!

Senator Robert Kennedy said, "Each time a [person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others ... he or she sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Merissa calls it "symbiotic synergism." Different people with like ideas working together to bring together those million different centers of energy and daring to build that current.

Dr. Peggy Rudd, in her fabulous book, quoted a lady who was leaving Tau Chi and moving to Washington State. Her name was Betty, and I would like to quote Peggy's book. (Betty ... Gee I like that name!) She spoke of belonging and contributing...

Betty said, "I would rather attempt something great and fail, than to attempt nothing at all and succeed! It is far better to dare to do mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered with failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much, nor suffer much. They live in the grey twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

These are exciting times, for we are an idea whose time has come, and we, here, now, can make it happen. Symbiotic synergism... working together to focus those million centers of energy. We must dare to do great things.

We are an idea whose time has come!

It is time to fly!!!

These <u>are</u> the best of times!

God love you.

-- Bette Lee Johnson

Barbara

&

Donna

Design

Consultants

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Barbara and Donna offer complete crossdressing services. We provide wigs, clothing, and makeup. Get the total look, feel feminine and relax in a comfortable, discreet atmosphere.

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PSHYCHOLOGY:

(Roger Peo is a Board Certified sexologist and president of 'Androgyny Unlimited'. He is also a member of the IFGE Board of Directors, and chairman of the IFGE Publications Committee. He is also a member of the Tri-Ess Professional Staff. If you have any subjects you would like Roger to write about, or wish to write a rebuttle, you may write him at: P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call: 914-462-7455. All communications are confidential.)

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#40)
Diversity in Crossdressing

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

It is a fortunate cross-dresser who comes to peace with himself. Part of the process of gaining such peace is learning just what kind of cross-dresser he is. Yes, there are many different varieties of cross-dressers.

Recently I read the column "Thoughts From An Ever Increasing Heel Height" by Muffy Williams in the January issue of Gender Euphoria, the Boulton & Park newsletter. Muffy wrote that studies of cross-dressers often do not match her perception of herself as a cross-dresser. She goes on to write that in her discussions with other cross-dressers she hears about many different lifestyles. She writes, "How do we determine who represents us? There are significant differences in the outlook, format and history of [cross-dressers]. Which one of us represents the 'true cross-dresser'?"

Whenever one person (or group) says they represent the "real" cross-dresser, cross-dressers whose feelings are different may wonder if they really are a cross-dresser. They do not feel as these people describe cross-dressing and they do not feel like transsexuals either. Confusion is created for the exploring cross-dresser.

In my experience as a therapist and as a consultant to various groups, I have encountered many different variations of cross-dressing. All these persons are clinically described as cross-dressers, yet the diversity of their feelings and behaviors is truly astounding. The one thing they had in common was a desire to wear women's clothing.

Such variety of feeling and behavior must be taken into account by not only clinicians but also by those organizations that serve the community. This does not mean that every organization should support the whole transgender community. Some feel that it is important to focus their activities on a segment of this population. However all these organizations have the responsibility to acknowledge and respect the existence of all aspects of cross-dressing, whether it is heterosexual or homosexual, casual or intense, sexual or non-sexual.

For the "new" cross-dresser, take heart, you are unique. You share love of feminine things with other cross-dressers, yet how and when you do this and how you feel is specific to you. If you do not exactly match some arbitrary definition of cross-dressing, don't be upset. Cross-dressing has more variations than many people will acknowledge.

As each of you struggles to discover who you are and what cross-dressing means in your life, keep in mind that your particular expression is uniquely yours. While you may share some feelings that other cross-dressers have, there may be others who have expressions which are different from yours. That does not make them right and you wrong. If neither of you tries to force your views on the other, there is no problem.

Lastly, those of you who represent the cross-dressing community to the public, keep in mind that you are describing a very diverse community and it is important to acknowledge that diversity.

[END]

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#41)
Would You Take The Pill?

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Have you ever wanted something so badly that nothing else in the world seemed to be important? Is that how you might, at times, describe your cross-dressing needs? One of the distinguishing characteristics of cross-dressing is its obsessive nature. When cross-dressing is on your mind oftentimes nothing else seems to matter. Further, the more you try to stop thinking about cross-dressing, the more it seems to be at the forefront of your thoughts.

There is a new buzzword in mental health circles called Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder or OCD for short. In the most severe cases a person who suffers from an OCD is unable to function normally. For example, a person with one form of an OCD may be so concerned about having 'dirty' hands that they may wash them 50 or more times a

day. While they know intellectually that their hands are clean, the emotional feeling of 'dirt' is so strong that they are compelled to wash their hands again and again. Until recently there was no effective therapy for persons with an OCD.

The National Institutes of Health have discovered that there may be a form of drug therapy which can reduce or eliminate such compulsive behavior. Their study is being expanded to look at the use of drugs to control sexual behaviors that have similarities to the OCDs they have been able to treat. One of these behaviors is transvestism. While I am personally skeptical that transvestism is an OCD, at least by their definition, this research raises some interesting questions.

One of the questions that comes to my mind is, "If I could give you a pill that would eliminate your desire to cross-dress, would you take it?" When I have asked cross-dressers that question, the vast majority have said that they would not take the pill. When I asked why the answer generally had something to do with the pleasure they derived from cross-dressing. Some also felt that cross-dressing was related to portions of their personality they liked.

While some cross-dressers find this need so uncomfortable they wish to eliminate it from their lives, most seem to enjoy some of its aspects. However, even for them, there also seem to be times when it would be nice to have that pill available.

A more insidious question about this approach is, "Suppose this drug is truly effective in eliminating cross-dressing impulses, would it be used indiscriminately to eliminate this 'undesirable' behavior?"

What I would hope is that drug-related approaches to behavior modification would always be used with caution and the utmost restraint. As our society swings back to a more traditional stance, it would be all too easy to use drugs to eliminate or control any behavior that was deemed undesirable. It has happened in other countries.

[END]

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#42)
On Wives' Support Groups

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

A relatively recent activity in the transgender community is the formation of wives' groups and couples groups. In the early 1980s when I began my work with wives, there were only a few groups for them. Some of you know that Dr. Vern Bullough also did a study of wives of cross-dressers. He found that many of these women said they got significant help through such support groups. I am pleased that such groups exist in enough areas that many women can take advantage of this means of support.

Most of these groups are not run by therapists, so I do not expect them to be marriage or group therapy sessions. Relationships that need such support should be getting formal therapeutic help. Rather, I would expect the group to be a sharing of support between people who have some common experiences. Those who have encountered a situation can have an empathy towards others in similar circumstances. Also, suggestions can be made for ways to cope with a particular predicament. The groups I know operate in this fashion.

However, I am concerned that support groups and couples groups can be used in harmful ways. There are things that should be guarded against when participating in or leading a group. With innocent intentions of helping a wife to understand or cope, the results can be damaging instead.

What worries me is a trend that I sense in the transgender community. As cross-dressing loses some of its social stigma, there seems to be more emphasis on trying to find new ways to persuade the unaccepting wife to become more accepting and supportive of her husband's cross-dressing. The latest approach appears to be focusing on wives groups as the mechanism to win this approval.

What is overlooked in this strategy is a sensitivity to the wife's feelings. The cross-dresser seems to think that if his wife would just learn enough about cross-dressing by talking with wives who have reached some accommodation with their husband's cross-dressing then she would accept his cross-dressing. The pressure the woman feels is tremendous. This tactic ignores gaining any understanding of her emotional response to her partner's cross-dressing.

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At the IFGE Convention there was a wives panel. One of the women who spoke was married to a pre-op transsexual and was planning to continue living with her after surgery. While the woman was comfortable with her partner's new gender, she mourned the loss of the male person she had married. To some extent wives of cross-dressers share the same feeling. They married a man for his maleness which cross-dressing can destroy. They need his maleness as much as the man needs her femaleness.

Each couple has to reach their own accommodation with cross-dressing. For some the only solution is for the wife to accept it as part of her husband's personality yet still choose not to participate in or support it.

Wives or couples groups provide a very necessary and vital support to those people who are struggling to integrate cross-dressing into their relationships. I do hope that they will always be used to help not hurt.

[END]

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#43)
On First-Timers

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Recent newsletters from several organizations have had letters from people who have visited a cross-dresser's group meeting for the first time. Most of these letters mention the fear and panic that accompany the first exploration of this setting. These descriptions present two recurring situations.

Most stories begin by describing a general feeling of relief this "first timer" experiences when finally being in the presence of others who share similar feelings. After the first few minutes he finds he is not so different after all.

When the time comes to socialize with others the accounts seem to split into two categories. The first is general acceptance of the newcomer into the group. The person is introduced to others and these people take time to make the novice feel at home. Such stories generally end with the person feeling very good about having taken the risk to attend the meeting.

The other portion of these descriptions often does not have such a happy ending. After the initial introductions the "old timers" begin sharing stories with each other. The newcomer is left out. It may be a long time before he returns, if he ever does.

I would guess that all of us have entered some gathering for the first time. If we got there a bit late we might see other pened to them since the last meeting. We wondered how to break into one of them and were very grateful when someone noticed our uncertainty and came over or included us in their group.

These reports led me to speculate about the purpose for cross-dressers groups. Most say that they have two reasons for their existence. The first is support for transgendered persons and the second is to provide a safe place for cross-dressing. Other reasons often include education of the public on transgender issues and support for partners of transgendered persons.

I wonder if many members realize how important it is to provide support for the visitor to a meeting. I know it is scary to go up to someone you don't know and start a conversation but if you don't, who will? If an organization is not growing then it is dying. People will always be leaving for a variety of reasons. New members are the only way to replace them.

My reason for writing is not to reprimand but rather to make you sensitive to those around you, especially newcomers. Those who come to a group for the first time may be newly out of the closet and perhaps have never met another person in the same situation as themselves. You have all been there and know how scary that is. A helping hand and supportive smile go a long way to help this newcomer begin the journey to discovery and self-acceptance. From a different viewpoint, remember that this new person will have some very valuable contribution to make to your organization.

I would like to think that cross-dressers and their organizations want to be different from many other social groups by caring and supporting others in like situations.

[END]

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#44)
On Labels

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

In our society labels are everything. Each of us belong to many categories that describe us to ourselves and to others: male/female, husband, brother, tall, short, young, old, carpenter, stockbroker, etc. The helping professions have many classifications. They are used for diagnosis and evaluation. For the most part they are useful. In transgender situations they can be misleading.

Researchers have spent countless hours in deriving labels to define various types of transgender behaviors. Perhaps

scheme was formulated by Dr. Harry Benjamin as a way to describe the situations he found. His scale covered those with no gender dysphoria through various kinds of transvestites to the transsexual. With each of his categories he listed typical sexual and social behaviors. Many people in the transgender community are aware of this scale and try to fit themselves into one of these "pigeonholes".

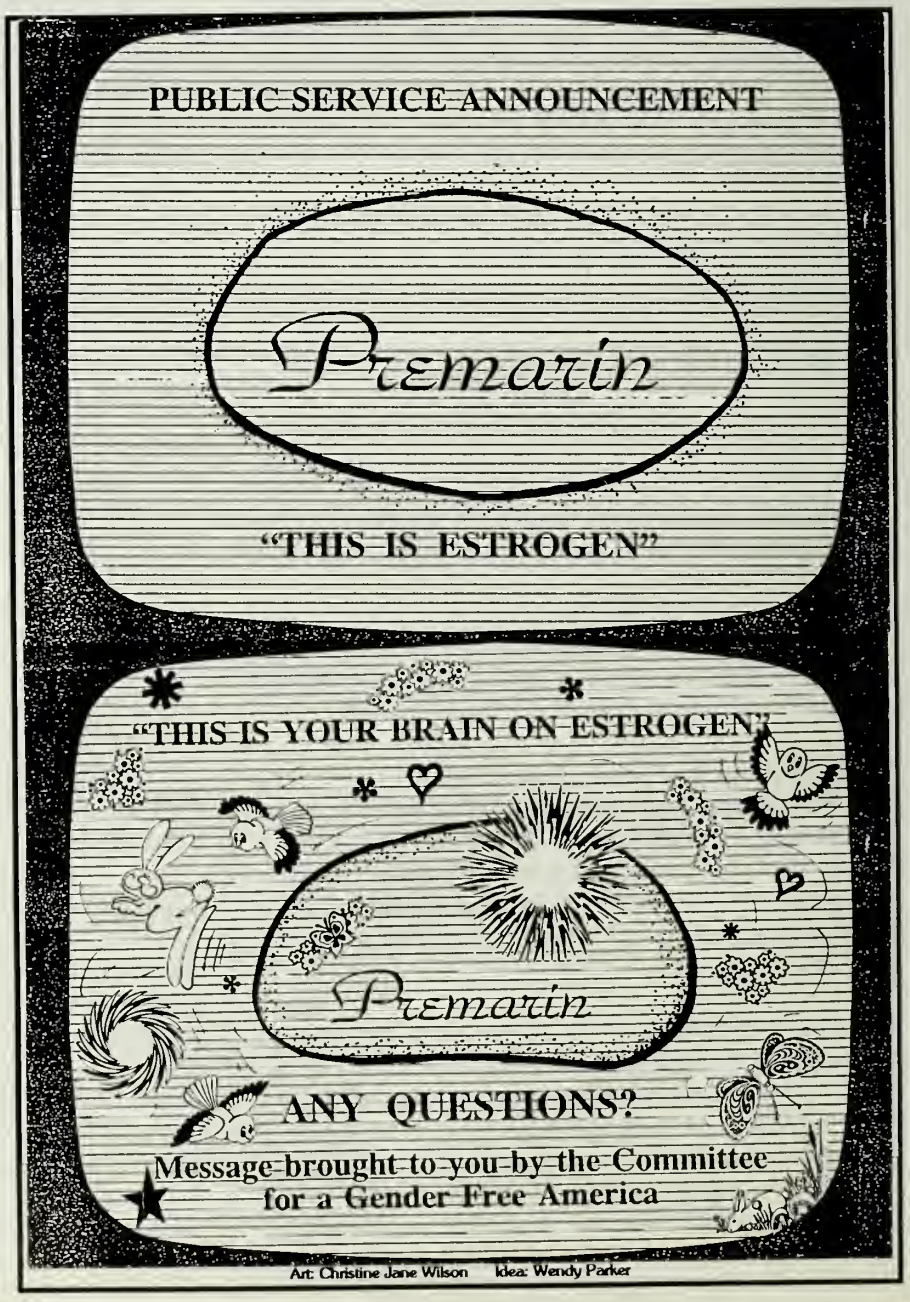
Probably the most frequent question I am asked by a new client is, "What am I -- transvestite or transsexual?" When I say that such a label is of little use in a therapy situation and that I very seldom use them, I often see a shocked expression.

As a therapist, the labelling of a client can be misleading because each is a unique individual. It is imperative that I know the differences between the cross-dresser and the transsexual because the therapeutic direction is quite different for each. Yet our major task is learning to manage the future. The question is, "What is the best way to meet this particular person's needs?" In the therapist-client relationship, we explore emotions and look for options. In this way the person begins to take control of his life. Each solution is unique. At some point in this process it may be useful to use the formal labels. Often resolution comes without them.

However, as a researcher, categories and labels are critical. They help me put into perspective what would otherwise be a jumble of facts. Almost every professional journal that I read provides me with additional information about transgender situations. The categories are becoming more numerous and more complex. Also, these classification schemes are based on a person's history and current behavior. They attempt to describe why a person might develop transgender feelings and how they feel after they identify them. These classifications are not useful in directing the course of individual therapy.

Labels and categories are not bad. They help us understand who we are and how we fit in with other people. They can provide us with a sense of belonging. The homosexual community was able to gain strength through identification with the label "gay". Cross-dressers and transsexuals have found similar strength. So long as such affiliation does not mask a person's individuality there is much to be gained through identification with special designations.

[END]



COVER PORTRAIT:

LINDA BUTEN (KY-2001)

(Linda Buten is one of the founders and coordinators of Cross-Port in Cincinnati. For the last several years Linda has served as Cross-Port's Representative to the IFGE Congress of Representatives. In addition to the Tapestry, the Congress is IFGE's primary communications and unifying tool for our community as a whole. In that role Linda has taken an active leadership role in the development of our community. In 1989 Linda led a fund raising campaign within Cross-Port to benefit IFGE. The funds raised were used to establish IFGE's Foundation Trust Fund. IFGE's future ability to provide grant money, non-profit educational publications, scholarships, etc. will depend on the income generated by the Trust. In 1990 Linda ran for and won a seat on the IFGE Board of Directors. At the last IFGE Board meeting Linda was appointed by unanimous vote to serve as Chairman of the IFGE Programs Committee, the committee that oversees the annual 'Coming Together' convention, and all other IFGE sponsored events. Linda has become a true leader in our community....and we are all the beneficiaries.)

Hi! My name is Linda. Well, let's just say I'm Linda whenever I get the chance.

I first met her when I was just a little guy. Like most of you, I knew my way around my mother's closet better than she did. As I got older and wiser, I discovered Linda and I were the same person. It was just a matter of combining the two genders into one personality. Since this was accomplished, my life has become rewarding in more ways than I had ever dreamed of. I live my fantasies, and enjoy life to the fullest with no reservations.

I'll never forget my first time out in Cincinnati. I thought I had parked only a block from this bar I was to meet another TV at. It was still early evening, and I was scared to death that I might run into someone. As I left the parking garage, the exit door behind me locked. Dressed in a short skirt and standing about 6'4" in my 4" heels, I rounded the bend. Not only was I actually about six blocks from the bar, but the Cincinnati Red's ballgame has just let out, and there were about 10,000 people jammed on the street. Just like an auto accident, everyone slowed up to get a peek at the Drag Queen coming their way. Well, I did get over it. In fact, I now get dressed and stand around the stadium after each home game.

I have been married to my wonderful wife for 16 years. We have three children, ages 5, 10, and 12. We keep no secrets, so the children have grown up with Linda around. I can pretty much dress as I please around the house, but I must keep in mind that my family doesn't approve of my dressing, they tolerate it. I believe a self-centered crossdresser becomes a lonely crossdresser.

I truly enjoy both genders, and by combining the two, I feel I have gained an understanding of male-female relationships and a rare insight on life in general. To me, I see gender-blending not as a hinderance but as a gift. When you combine it together with my outgoing personality and my desire to make the world a better place to live, you end up with someone committed to the cause.

For the last 10 years, I've had a quote by Theodore Roosevelt pinned up in my office which I believe relates to IFGE and all crossdressers

everywhere. It says, "Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

From the growth of IFGE and the other 200+ organizations, I believe many of us feel the same way. As is all walks of life, acceptance and respect is not freely given out. It must be earned. We are providing the stepping stones for the future, and I believe, I can help contribute.

The first transsexual I ever met was in 1968 when I was still in college. My major was pre-med, so I was required to take such courses as Embryology. We each had to improvise a lab experiment which would have to be tested to prove our hypothesis. Most students did the obvious experiments, like chopping a salamander's leg and recording the regeneration process. Not me! I had remembered a paper where a pullet's testosterone level would increase as ovarian tissue was removed. In other words, if I operate on a young hen by which I remove her ovarian tissue, the recessive male hormones then would be dominant, and thus give male characteristics to a hen upon maturing. You might call this 'primitive sex change surgery'. Yes, all through school, the word spread quickly and I became known as the sex-change doctor. In fact, to this day, almost 20 years later, the teachers still talk about it. I'd tell you how it all came out, but in case my future lies in this field, I think I had better keep a lid on the results.

In the late seventies, I got involved trying to start a Tri-Ess chapter in my area. It only lasted six months. Two years later, a new group of girls and I tried again. Is three a charm? I'm afraid not. It wasn't until the fourth try in 1985 that I finally met Heather Peerson. With the gender movement expanding at a rapid pace, the time was right. Motivation and determination were part of Heather's forte. She could put in the time that I never had. So, Cross-Port was born. With my prior knowledge of what works and what doesn't, we were able to start off on the right foot. Unfortunately, like many groups, we seem to have many more indians than chiefs, so those of us who assume the leadership role are always accessible to burn out.

Those who know me know I just don't stop. I work from early morning until the sun goes down, and then I'm ready to party until the last person leaves. I have a facetious nature that most people enjoy. I live for today, but I realize tomorrow isn't far behind. I go where I want, and do what I want. This makes my adventuresome life rewarding and exciting. You might say I practice Wendi Pierce's theorem of "Go for it!"

Why just a few weeks ago, I had to drop two of my kids off at piano practice. I had been running around the house with a dress on and my heels. When it was time to leave, no big deal, it was dark out and no one would see in my car. Everything went smooth until after they got out of the car. Everything went smooth until after they got out of the car. I then proceeded to back over a neighbor's metal garbage can which became wedged under the back bumper. Lights in the neighborhood started to turn on as they peered out their windows. Well here I am, 'boy' from neck up, but 'girl' from neck down. What in the world do I do now? As people start out come out of their homes, I have no choice but to put the peddle to the metal. I hi-tailed it out of there with the can being drug up the street making a god-awful noise and sparks flying. All the way home people honked and flashed lights at me. I did make it, but it was a close one.

You may ask why I stick these little stories in here. It's not just to add a little humor, but to show that the times you step out of seclusion to enjoy life, can be the most memorable and rewarding of all....like the time I crashed the Marquette University's beer bash at the first IFGE convention's hotel. Now that certainly was different.

From the first IFGE convention in 1987 until the present, I have been the Representative to IFGE for Crossport. This year, thanks to many of you, I am also now a member of the IFGE Board of Directors. I plan to do my share to achieve the goals IFGE has set forth.

If dreams really do come true, then perhaps someday all crossdressers can come out of hiding and enjoy the full spectrum of their personalities.

[END]

FICTION

Dear Editor,

This is a paper I wrote for a psychology class this past semester. The assignment was to invent an "interesting person" and tell his or her entire life's story - from birth to death - with commentaries on the developmental theories of Kohlberg and Loevinger, Havighurt, Levinson, Gould, Erikson, and Jung. (For your reading enjoyment, I have mercifully eliminated the dry and lengthy comparisons of the theories of human development.)

I "cheated" and used one of the most interesting people I know as the major basis of my "story" - Sheila Kirk. I relied heavily on my talks with Sheila and many direct quotes from Mariette Pathy Allen's book, "Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them," copyright 1989, E.P. Dutton, NY, NY.

I wish to thank Sheila and Mariette for their support, and for permission to publish this story.

-- Karin C.

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THE IMAGINARY LIFE OF DR. DAVID MICHAEL METCALF

by Karin C.

His mother had a pair of red satin pumps that he adored. He wore them as often as he could. He remembers that one day she was looking for him and he was trapped in her closet with those shoes on. He moved to the back of the closet and stood there, way behind her clothes - for a very, very long time.

As an only child, David felt very close to his mother as he was growing up. She was a very sensual woman, always dressed beautifully. She had control over people just by her warmth and her personality. She could walk into a room and capture that room. So when she said to David, "You might make a good physician," David believed it.

Everybody, including David's mother, addressed his humorless and dour father as "Mr. Metcalf." The head of a large banking firm, he worked long hours. He never seemed to have any time for his lonely wife and his quiet, gentle, introspective little boy. When David was twelve years old, his father suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. Mama said that David was the "man of the family now" and he never forgot it.

Sent to prep school in the East, David excelled academically. Once, as a senior, he attended a halloween party dressed as a gypsy girl. He remembers being the "hit" of the party. This experience revived the memory of how good it once felt wearing his mother's shoes and clothing. It irresistibly seized his erotic fantasies and forever afterward rekindled his interest in dressing as a woman.

It was at Princeton that David first heard the word "transvestite." Although he was unable to find any accurate or helpful information, he was relieved to know that he was not the only man in the world who wanted to dress as a woman. Nevertheless, he felt guilty and alone. During those college years he sometimes won-

dered if he was homosexual, and this worried him - a lot! To ease the torment of this, he immersed himself in his courses and continued to achieve top honors.

He often dreamed of the day when he would finally be a doctor. Home for Christmas in his junior year, he became smitten with Dorothy and was eager to ask for her hand in marriage. David was certain that his marriage would "cure" him of his "condition" and that they'd live happily ever after.

David's first rotation as an intern was in pediatric services where he observed a lot of severe illness and death. He was stunned by that. He felt depressed and inadequate. Dorothy, his wife of two months, sought to console him. David was greatly relieved when this assignment was over.

The next service was OB/GYN. It was full of brightness and happiness. He felt that he was really giving something to his patients. When he could say to a woman, "Here is your son," or "Here is your daughter," he would sometimes get choked up with the experience. His great knowledge and skill combined with a charming manner and his genuine love of, and sympathy toward women, was certainly a factor in his eventual success in the practice of obstetrics.

After his training, David got a position in a hospital and he and his wife moved. During the move, Dorothy came across some of his feminine clothes, very nicely wrapped and boxed. She was shocked and disapproving. She felt betrayed by him. She accused him of being gay and asked if he dated men. She said he was disgusting and demanded that he stop "dressing" and act like a "normal" man. He felt guilty and hurt. He really did try to quit but found it impossible. They talked about his transvestism, but they never could work it out very well. From this point on, Dorothy wanted a divorce, a wish that lingered and permeated the marriage for the next ten years. When David eventually discovered Dorothy's affair with a colleague, the marriage ended as she bitterly moved out of their home with their two young children.

Dorothy's parting shot was to spitefully tell David's mother about his transvestism. Shortly afterward the old woman died, making it clear to her once beloved son that she was very disappointed in him. David was devastated by the collapse of his marriage and the loss of his mother. He cursed himself and "the way he was," and for the first time ever, he had thoughts of suicide.

David sought solace with a young woman and she became pregnant by him. He felt that he had no choice, so he "did the right thing" and married her. They moved to Philadelphia and he began a practice that was even more successful than the last. He kept very busy and was very careful to keep his crossdressing a secret from Margaret. Indeed, he even was able to keep his "secret" for fifteen years of this marriage - thanks to frequent "out of town" medical conventions.

His wife eventually, however, did learn about "Dianna" (the name he began to use for his feminine self). It was on another halloween. They were invited to a party and he convinced Margaret to wear a tuxedo and he wore a gown. She noticed that he derived so much joy from going into that party with all those good friends. He was so exhilarated by the surprise and excited comments made by many of the men about how his hair looked and his clothing fit, that she became suspicious. She said, "Anyone who puts on makeup as well as you do, has been putting it on for a long time." - So, that night he told her about it.

They talked for a week. Margaret tried to work it out in her mind. She felt really threatened and for the next six months never really knew if David was seeing himself as a man or as a woman. She really did not want to have sex with a woman and this was followed by the worst period in their marriage.

David went to the "Crossdresser's Ball" for the first time that Spring and when he came back he was wearing a little chain and had a vibrant, bubbling sparkle in him that she hadn't seen in years. Margaret realized that crossdressing "did it" for him and she "did not." She went to a counselor and eventually just accepted what the counsellor said - that he would be dressing and it had to be OK with her or the marriage would end.

David's lonely world came to an end. He and Margaret grew closer. She finally accepted him exactly the way he was. His finances secure and his children grown, he took more and more time from his medical practice to pursue the pleasures of life with his beloved wife. It was a time of exploration, closeness and peace. They took boundless delight in visits with their two grandchildren. As he approached an early retirement, they looked forward to West Palm Beach - a life of luxury and ease. David never remembered feeling as good as he felt at that time.

But alas, "the fates" had other plans for Dr. David Michael Metcalf. The very week that they signed the mortgage on the West Palm Beach retirement home, Margaret discovered a lump in her left breast. An examination revealed that it was malignant and had already begun to spread. All of his skill and all of his knowledge failed before the onslaught of her illness. In a few short months she was gone.

In the weeks after Margaret's death, David began to

rely heavily on medication in order to get through the nights. He drank just a little too much in order to get through the days. He slid from grief into depression and just seemed to get stuck there. he felt cheated and was full of self-pity. After a year, in an attempt to feel better, he sold his practice and moved to the West Palm Beach house. He felt even more isolated than before as he went through the motions of everyday living.

One morning he awoke convinced that he no longer wanted to go on - that this was going to be the last day of his life. Suddenly, David was terrified and as he reached for the phone, he understood that he had to have immediate help. That call saved his life.

After some intensive therapy, David began to come out of his depression. He joined the local country club and reacquainted himself with some old friends and even made some new friends. He found that the local hospital had a need for a consultant with his exceptional skills and he agreed to join the staff in a part time position. His new lifestyle absorbed him and he began to put his life back together again. As he approached his sixtieth birthday, he found that he even began to take pleasure in crossdressing again. David felt that at last his life was truly pleasant and he planned to continue with this comfortable lifestyle "as long as God was willing. . ."

One evening he got a call from the hospital asking him to come in immediately for a difficult emergency delivery. They apologized for this but explained that all available doctors had been summoned because of a serious bus accident. It was midnight by the time David was ready to leave the hospital. As he passed by the emergency room on his way to the parking lot, he heard the wail of sirens. It seemed like old times as he rolled up his sleeves and headed in. The emergency area was so busy he couldn't even find a nurse as he met the stretcher coming through the double doors.

At first glance, the youth before him appeared dead - a black hole where his mouth should have been. As David stripped off the boy's blood-soaked clothing, he was shocked to see that the patient was wearing a bra and panties. For an hour, David fought to save him but the child died in his arms.

"This child is me," he thought - and it was a revelation to him. David felt as if he'd been struck by a sledge hammer right between his eyes. In a daze, he went to find the boy's parents. The mother collapsed in his arms. the father, between sobs, told how he had "tried to shame it out of him," how they tried, and failed, to "make a man" out of their only son. They hadn't understood why the child was so different and had not realized how desperate and unhappy he had become. His tragic suicide at age fifteen was a shock to his parents. And this event radically, instantly, altered the course of David's life!

By the time David reached home he was completely changed. It had become very clear that his life's work had only begun. All that happened before was only a preparation for the monumental task before him. He no longer considered his "comfort" of any importance. His wealth and skill were only useful tools. He felt as if all the suffering in his life had really been for a good purpose. He felt that he had been selfish and only concerned with his own pain until now. He wondered out loud why this never occurred to him before. From the deepest part of himself, he'd made a commitment - to help others like himself. He knew that he could, and would, make a difference. David became a man with a mission.

He began to read and copy all available medical literature written on issues of gender. This task alone took him nearly two years. He "bit the bullet" and "came out of his deep dark closet," to live and work as "Dianna."

He gave lectures. He wrote articles. He organized seminars. He even appeared on "Donahue." He was surprised to find that so many people were accepting. He was even more surprised (in the beginning) to find that some of his acquaintances had the very same secret!

David - as "Dianna" - was a pioneer in providing quality health care to the transvestite and transsexual community. His scholarly contributions to medical journals shed much light on a subject where so little was previously known. His twenty years of dedication and compassion changed countless lives.

Surrounded by close friends and family to honor him on his eighty-third birthday, David surprised them by announcing the completion of his first manuscript - a book three years in the writing!

Several weeks later, feeling a "slight indigestion" after lunch, David lay down to take a nap - and peacefully passed away in his sleep.

His autobiography, "David/Dianna" was published soon after his death and became an instant best seller. It has been translated into fifteen languages and has become the "bible" for the TV/TS community world-wide. His poignant chronicle of courage and hope has helped to eliminate much prejudice thus making a better and more peaceful world.

Dr. David Michael Metcalf has become a legend to many and his good works live on as a tribute.

THE NINTH WORLD CONGRESS OF SEXOLOGY

by

Ariadne Kane
Director, Outreach Institute

From December 2-8, 1989, I was a participant and presenter at the Ninth World Congress of Sexology (WCS). It was the first time that a paraculture leader has been invited to present on gender issues. The WCS focuses on all aspects of sexuality. Over 1000 delegates from over 50 countries attended the 1989 meeting, held in Caracas, Venezuela. Both researchers and therapists were represented.

Ari w/ Ramon Hernandez, President of the W.C.S.

The North American delegation was balanced among academic researchers, sex educators, and therapists. Among them were John Money, world-renowned sex and gender researcher, Ted and Vinnie McIlvenna, Directors of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Human Sexuality, and Eli Colman, President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex. It was indeed a distinct honor for me to be part of the American delegation.

Caracas is a bustling metropolis. There is a CD/TS community scattered throughout the city, but only a small segment is visible. For the most part, this community is well hidden and very difficult to make contact with. I did meet a girlfriend of a CD who had committed suicide because he was unable to find suitable help and support from either his family or a healthcare professional. More about this aspect of my experience later.

Ari w/ Dr. John Money

In 1988, at the national meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, I met Dr. Fernando Bianco, coordinator of the Ninth WCS. He invited me to give a paper and do a workshop. I told him I was flattered to be considered for such an invitation, and that I would present a proposal to the Board of the Outreach Institute and seek there endorsement and financial backing. After serious debate about the value of our presence at such a meeting, the Board gave approval, dependent on finding funds for travel and accommodations.

As a result of attending and representing the CD/CG community at the WCS, I made connections with many people in other countries who work with gender-conflicted clients. Here in North America, we tend to think of our paraculture network as small, and sometimes in-

effective. However, I found that we have a most comprehensive and active network, by comparison to Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Within our paraculture, we have more social, educational, and professional contacts, and more public speaking and television appearances, than anywhere else in the world.

Ari w/ Dr. Eli Coleman, President of S.S.S.S., and Dr. Rafaello Alverex, Director of a clinic in Buenos Aires

Another positive outcome of my attending was the opportunity to present a different and more effective approach for helping people with gender conflict. The WCS has viewed gender conflict as a psychiatric and medical issue. The Outreach Institute has developed an approach that emphasizes personal growth rather than pathology. Here in the US, we are beginning to recognize the socially determined aspects of sex and gender. There is a visible movement towards individual gender expression and tolerance. It is noticeable in the changing roles of both men and women in the workplace and in the social structures. Incorporating cross-gender behaviors into these redefined gender roles will hopefully let many of our sisters and brothers become more at ease with who they really are. These are new ideas to many health care professionals from Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

After my first day at the Congress, I realized that I had to devise a way to market my programs and make them "must attend" items on participants' agendas. Although descriptions of the presentation and workshop were printed in the program booklet, I was not as well known as someone such as John Money. In discussions with colleagues about my concerns, it was suggested that I present myself as a woman at the first major social function, a cocktail party. This would certainly attract attention from many participants, and I could inform them about my presentations. It was known that, in addition to being a health provider in my country, I was also a nationally known crossdresser with a good reputation in many professional circles. I conferred with other colleagues about this strategy to be sure it would not embarrass anyone. With these concerns taken care of, I decided to try this approach.

The evening of the cocktail party I was escorted into the party suite by John Money. He in turn introduced me to participants from Japan, who spoke intelligible English. We talked about some research being done on gender issues in Japan. Soon, other non-American colleagues joined us. After about fifteen minutes, I was standing at the center of a sizable circle of participants, who were asking all sorts of questions, not only in English, but Spanish, French, and Italian. The "cocktail party" for me lasted about three hours, with continuous questions, some of which I could answer in English, and French and Italian when my command of Spanish failed me. It was a very enjoyable evening and I achieved my goal of marketing my programs.

Ari w/ Isobel Boschi, Sex Educator, Buenos Aires

About thirty people had signed up for my workshop, most of them from Spanish-speaking countries. It would take place in two days following the cocktail party. My immediate need was for a competent English-Spanish translator. I went to the Operations Committee with my request. The Director of Operations provided two excellent translators. All went surprisingly well during the program. I explained my philosophy and my approach to gender conflict, including the concept of "gender shift". I talked at length about several important social/educational programs for personal growth

for CDs and TSs. In all, I believe I made a significant impact in broadening understanding and even some attitude change among the participants.

I dressed as a professional man for my workshop and paper presentation. However, I dressed en femme for one other Conference function the final banquet. For most of my stay I dressed in casual "gender blending" clothes. Many participants asked if I could dress as a woman and join them for a night on the town. I declined to do se, because I was not familiar with the legality of CD practices in Venezuela. Also, being in a macho-oriented culture, I was concerned my attire might be misinterpreted outside the Conference.

Earlier I mentioned my meeting the girlfriend of a Venezuelan CD. We had met briefly at the cocktail party, and we met later in the week for a longer talk. She is a journalist; her boyfriend ad been an artist. After a two-year courtship, he finally told her that, to express his feminine side, he could dress up in his studio, and act out some of his feminine fantasies. She was interested and wanted to support him. Both of them knew he needed some professional help, but neither one could find an empathic therapist, Someone in his family found out about his crossdressing and told other family members. He found the consequent weight of shame too much to bear. The girlfriend went to his studio one day and found him dead. He was dressed en femme and had taken some poison. He wrote her a note explaining his decision, talking about the shame he felt regarding his family. She asked to interview me about my work with gender conflicted clients in Boston, hoping it might enlighten the mental health community in her country.

One of the surprises I had was the participants' response to the concept of a well-adjusted crossdresser. In general, they were unaware that such a person could exist. People with gender conflict are deeply closeted in Latin America and in other areas. Rigid gender images are ingrained in the social matrix of these countries. Many of these professionals had never met a crossdresser before, let alone one who was also a professional and familiar with the issues.

In all, it was a milestone for the CD/CG community to be an invited presenter, and to leave a positive impression about the changing attitudes towards gender conflict. I hopefully influenced the therapists at the conference to provide more flexible and realistic pathways for full gender expression to their clients.

[END]

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EDITORIAL:

[Attention Wives, Partners, and Significant Others affiliated with any support group!]

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN TRI-ESS!

by Shirley Kay

Because I am the wife of a crossdresser and am currently quite active in Tri-Ess, the issue of wives and significant others being made full members in the organization is an important one to me. Genetic females have long played a role in the background of the sorority, BUT making us equal members is a step which will lead Tri-Ess in a new direction that in the future will make it a stronger and more vital organization.

I am aware that there have been qualms voiced among some of the Tri-Ess membership as to what the effects this step will actually have on Tri-Ess as a whole. Because of these reservations I feel it necessary to point out how vital it is for genetic women to play an active role in the Tri-Ess organization at both the local and national levels.

An article appeared in the Delta Chapter newsletter which addressed some of these issues and helped me to better understand the basis of these reservations. I corresponded with their editor and she posed two questions which I feel best address what my research has led me to believe is the heart of the matter: **1)** What do women involved with Tri-Ess want to accomplish? and **2)** Why is Tri-Ess the proper vehicle for these goals?

I think women involved with Tri-Ess want to accomplish a lot more than acting as cooks, hostesses, and resident makeup consultants at chapter meetings. Don't get me wrong! I'm very pleased when I can be of some help to a male member of FIESTA concerning makeup, clothing, or shopping. Especially when I know they are single, or perhaps their spouse doesn't know or isn't accepting of their need to dress. I feel complimented when they ask me for assistance. This type of help and cooperation is very important, <u>but</u> I also feel our help can go much deeper than that.

In addition to helping each other cope with the problems we face concerning our husbands' crossdressing I feel supportive wives and SO's can also be of help to those men whose spouses are either unaccepting or want to accept but are having difficulty understanding their husband's situation. The opportunity to become full fledged members gives us the opportunity to come out of the shadows and be more than nameless volunteers. Full participation allows us to let less accepting wives see, that while we will all have our various crises and hurdles to cross until society comes to accept our husbands' way of life, it is possible to lead a "normal" life and not have to be so afraid and ashamed of what goes on in our households.

Seeing couples interacting in a meaningful way for the betterment of Tri-Ess will give a man with a reluctant wife some positive feedback to bring home. It will benefit him by allowing him to see that with effort there is some hope for perhaps turning even the most reluctant wife into a supportive one. It will allow him to go home to a wife who is perhaps accepting but afraid of what she will encounter at meetings and relate the positive events he has experienced. He can let her know that there are women participating in the group who were once in her position and perhaps arouse enough curiosity in her so she will give us a chance to show her how much help and support we can give her as well as her husband. Even if a spouse comes only once and decides it's not for her, I think we have still accomplished something of great importance by opening up the communication between the two people involved in the relationship.

I have seen the effects such a positive experience can bring right within FIESTA. One of the wives, while trying to be understanding of her husband's crossdressing, was at first reluctant to join us. After a lot of reassurances from her husband she finally agreed to come. It wasn't easy for her at first and I sensed a lot of apprehension on her part in the beginning, but things changed. I don't recall her exact words, but a few months ago she said that she came to the first meetings to see what the rest of us were like, to see other crossdressers, and hopefully find out what her husband's femme self was all about.

She said coming to the meetings helped her overcome some of the fears and prejudices she had built up and that the meetings have been a big help in understanding things more clearly. The person who comes to the FIESTA meetings now is not the same woman who came through the door a year ago. She has become more confident and accepting with each meeting. Perhaps with greater participation of wives and SO's we can soon see such positive changes in other chapters as well!

Some members of Tri-Ess do not have spouses or SO's or are men with a wife who knows nothing of her husband's crossdressing. Some of these individuals do not see how letting women into Tri-Ess can help them and think perhaps they may even be pushed out of the organization if it becomes more couple oriented. If you fall in this category, did you ever stop to think how we might be of help to you

in your relationships rather than looking at us as a threat?

By allowing the spouses and SO's of other members full participation in the organization you are also giving us a chance to have more contact with you, along with the opportunity to share our feelings about our husbands' crossdressing that will give you more insight on how to deal with the subject in future relationships. Perhaps we can give you some suggestions that will help you share your secret with the person you are involved with now. I don't mean to imply it's an easy thing to do, but with the support of women who have gone through similar experiences maybe it can be accomplished and we can eventually be of support to both you and the women you become involved with.

Another concern seems to be that by giving spouses full membership and voting privileges that couples will have an unfair advantage, or that spouses will try to control the organization as a means of having some type of control over our husbands' crossdressing. Do you ever really think we will gain such numbers as to accomplish something like this?

The men are always going to outnumber us at every level. By definition there can never be more female members than male, so I can't realistically see us causing an uprising and taking control of Tri-Ess. Most of the women who would care enough to take the time to concern themselves with the issues and vote are more than likely already accepting and supportive and aren't going to waste their vote on revenge even if they don't agree with their husband's point of view.

Finally, I think the active participation of spouses in Tri-Ess will help to improve our image with the general public and help with their education of what crossdressers really are. Tri-Ess won't just be dismissed at first glance as an organization for crazy men wearing dresses. It may arouse the public's curiosity and get them to pay closer attention to our message if they notice there are genetic women involved too.

Maybe once we get their attention we can show them that we are just as "normal" as they consider themselves to be. We are respectable citizens, we hold jobs, pay taxes, raise families and do all the things that so-called "normal" people do. The only difference is that the men we are involved with choose to express a side of their personalities that the majority of men either don't know is there or refuse to acknowledge due to society's pressures. Wouldn't even a small step towards public acceptance be worth our active involvement in Tri-Ess?

Why is Tri-Ess the proper vehicle for these goals? I'm not sure it is but it is the only one I know of. To the best of my knowledge, Tri-Ess is the only organization that is already oriented towards heterosexual crossdressers, whose membership is made up of individuals who are predominantly married or who have been married in the past, and it by far the largest organization with a coordinated network of nationwide chapters. Why not take advantage of a system that is already in place and growing larger every day?

Tri-Ess has been traditionally known as a safe and secure place for crossdressers to come out of the closet, learn more about themselves, and allow them to understand their need to dress while not being confused with other areas of the paraculture. Because of this I also feel it is the best vehicle to achieve the goals of helping and educating the spouses and SO's as well.

The safe-haven of Tri-Ess can provide a place for women involved in relationships with crossdressers to achieve their goals and accomplish the things they feel are important to their relationships. It can be a comfortable place for us to start from just as it is for a crossdresser newly emerged from the closet and in need of support. It can give us the opportunity to experience a friendly and secure environment in which to deal with our immediate situation and the chance to go on to the next step when we feel ready.

If the only thing we accomplish by being allowed to actively participate in Tri-Ess is to see that there is a place where the spouses and other family members can get adequate information and receive acceptance, even if they don't attend a single meeting, it will have been worth the effort we ALL need to expend for the betterment of Tri-Ess.

[END]

YOUR FEMININITY

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Daughters of Isis

EDITORIAL:

PUTTING THE SUPPORT IN SUPPORT GROUPS

by

Nancy Cole (KS-2189)

"No man is an island, entire unto itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

John Donne, 1572-1631

Perhaps no one better than a crossdresser or a transsexual understands what Donne meant when he wrote that piece over three hundred and fifty years ago. We have all experienced, on one hand, the feeling of isolation when dressing or striving to express our female selves. At the same time, we are faced with the realization that we are part of a culture and society where our practices are, at best, misunderstood and rarely tolerated. That is why there has been over the past twenty five years the growth of organizations and 'clubs' specifically for crossdressers and transsexuals. In effect, we have created for ourselves narrow peninsulas jutting out from the main body of our culture where we can exist, for a short while, as we see fit, as we feel we need to.

In recent years, these 'clubs' and organizations have begun to become known as support groups. The main purpose of such an organization is to provide assistance and support to its members through individual and collective efforts. Some of these organizations, particularly the larger and older ones such as Tiffany outside of Boston, or those connected to a national organization such as Tri-Ess, benefit from having members who are experienced or association with understanding and knowledgeable professionals. There are many, that do not have such advantages. Isolated and lacking a calm, experienced hand, these small groups bounce haphazardly along on the verge of existence. What can be done to make these small groups meaningful support groups? The answer is simple, as simple as reaching out and touching your friend, your sister, and letting her touch you.

In the beginning our desire to crossdress, or, in some cases, seek sexual reassignment, is a dark and frightening thought. The first reaction is to hide it, to suppress it, to deny it. For many, and we will never know how many do so, this works. For those of you reading this article, that approach didn't work. Step by step, we each have made a journey that started with a feeling, a desire, a need. That journey has led us to express it by thought, word, or deed. At some point, a helping hand played an important part. The first help we reached for was nothing more than literature, such as the 'Tapestry', or books such as 'Transvestites and Transsexuals' by Dr. Richard F. Docter. Though this first step was important, and probably the most critical, it was not enough. Even the best literature cannot replace the human touch and a warm, friendly smile. Fortified with a little knowledge, most of us propelled ourselves forward to the next step, the real boon to our growth when, for the first time, we met another crossdresser. Here is where the support group starts to play its role.

Let me pause for a moment and clarify the term 'group'. A group is nothing more than a number of individuals related by a common factor or interest. There is no magic wand waved by someone from Tri-Ess in far away California or credentials bestowed by the IFGE that makes a

group a "support" group. Two friends, meeting at infrequent intervals in a private home or a motel room, talking, sharing experiences or make-up tips, is a support group. It makes no difference if you are two or two hundred. What does matter is what happens when this support group and its members meet.

The decision and act of coming to her first meeting or convention is, at best, traumatic for a crossdresser or transsexual. Seldom do they know anyone there. What they do know about other crossdressers and transsexuals is based on what they have read in available literature, (some of which can be quite bizarre), or seen on TV (television that is). So she comes to the meeting or convention with a hodgepodge of ideas and beliefs about the paraculture and about herself. At this point, she probably does not even have a clear image of who or what she is, why she is doing this, or where she is going. In short, we have a very confused, anxious, and vulnerable person on our hands.

We have all seen new girls attending their first meeting or convention. They are our version of the wall flower; sitting alone, usually in a corner if possible, arms folded, head lowered, feet together and tucked under the chair, eyes glancing about in a fugitive manner. At a convention, or party, where everyone is standing, she wanders about, cautiously casting a sideways glance as she skirts groups of chatting friends. This is where true support begins. This is when someone must reach out and not only touch the new girl, but draw her in, ready or not.

To support another, someone must be willing to reach out, to open themselves up. You don't have to be a professional psychologist or trained as a counselor. There is no training needed. Anyone can. The only requirement is a caring nature and the desire to help someone over the same rough spots that you yourself have experienced. Now, some of you may say, "It's not in my nature to show emotions or be caring." That may be true for "Him", but what about the feminine self that you are trying to express, to portray. Empathy, caring, the need to help others, and, yes, the need to mother, are qualities that our culture has identified as female characteristics. In your travels as a male you may have had to ignore or suppress these feelings. But now you have put aside your male identity, if only for a moment. Outwardly, you are endeavoring to be a female in appearance and mannerisms. It is therefore not difficult to make the next logical step in your own journey to becoming a whole person by reaching out and expressing those feminine characteristics of empathy, caring, and helping. What better place to start than with the new girl sitting alone or wandering about without a guide?

When I say reach out and touch someone, I mean it...literally. Nothing can replace the physical touch, the feeling that someone is really there. Women do not share the same phobias that men do about touching. It is very natural for a woman to come up close to another and lightly grasp the other woman's lower arm while placing her other hand on her friend's shoulder. Contact established, the two women often lean their heads closer together and greet each other. There is no challenge, no fear that one's space has been invaded. Instead, there is a drawing together, a sharing.

Now, if you do this to the new girl, be prepared for a startled reaction and perhaps a jerk backwards. After all, the new girl is defensive and may still be heaped in the traditions of her male training. Let her recoil, but do not let her go. Instead, flash your best smile and give her a warm, heart felt greeting. In short, waylay her fears, disarm her, seize the initiative and press on, but gently, softly, as a woman would do. Done properly, the new girl recovers and reverts to the female role she is attempting to emulate. Your manner and conduct, presented in an easy and feminine manner will show through and the new girl will take your lead.

Suddenly, something wonderful will happen. Not only are you, the experienced girl, going out of your way to support a new girl in her time of need, the new girl is supporting you. By following your lead, by looking back at you and seeing another female person and treating you as such, the new girl is supporting your efforts to be as feminine as possible. Slowly, without realizing it, you will find yourself experiencing the joys of caring and sharing. While drawing the new girl into the group, you progress further along in your own development as a complete person. You become a female in feeling, not just the image of one.

Support at the individual level is achieved through verbal and non-verbal exchanges. The most obvious, the verbal exchange is the sharing of thoughts, experiences, or tips on how to dress, act, or deal with certain situations. During this exchange, one of the two normally takes the lead due to experience or greater knowledge, but again, there is an exchange. This is particularly true when discussing thoughts on the subject of crossdressing. Ideas don't just bounce off people talking or exchanging views. Some, if not all, that is said by one person is taken in and considered by the receiver. The receiver, or listener, considers this information, compares it to her values, thoughts, ideas, or experiences, and may store it, or use it to expand the conversation. In short, unless one of the two girls is brain dead, there is a sharing and a good deal of support going on.

The group dynamics are not much different. It only takes one or two girls to set the pace for an organization. A word of caution, however, before we go on. Group settings have greater constraints than individual interactions. There must be a degree of commonality and standards within the group if it is to last as a group. This commonality can be a shared set of standards, goals, conduct, and/or opinions. Not all crossdresser/transsexual support groups share the same goals and purposes. Some have a very narrow and well defined charter that limits access to the group to selected girls

who conform to the group's standards of conduct, view, and dress codes. On the other extreme, there are very open groups that allow just about anything to happen and, in fact, may depend on it.

For many crossdressers/transsexuals, the group they start with is very much a matter of luck or geography. How a crossdresser/transsexual develops, the views and habits she adopts, is directly reflective to the norms of the group she associates with. This puts a burden of responsibility on the group's leadership, both formal and informal leaders. The group, the leaders, and the members must have some idea of the image they themselves as individuals want to portray and what the group is all about; its purpose, its goals, and its mode of operation. Perspective members can easily be frightened away if they perceive that the group is "too open", or on the flip side, too narrow. An open organization, with great diversity in views and conduct can be overwhelming to someone just coming out of the closet and unsure of who she is and where she is going. Equally, an organization with rules that are unnecessarily narrow and stringent can be too restrictive to a developing crossdresser or transsexual, stifling growth of the individual and the group.

The bottom line here is; if you are going to be a true support group, you need to be able to and willing to be flexible and open minded. That does not mean that you must abandon all rules of conduct and etiquette. On the contrary, you need to have your agenda straight and your program lined up if you are going to help anyone, and that program must be multi-layered and progressive. While many crossdressers find a plateau where all their needs and goals are satisfied, some go on, perhaps becoming transgenderists living full time as women, or transsexuals seeking reassignment surgery. If a group is unable to grow along with them, such people will leave the group, either striking out on their own, or seeking a support group more attuned to their more advanced needs. If that happens, your support group has failed to meet the needs of its most precious asset, a human being. Just make sure that your group is making a conscious decision to allow that to happen.

Above the support group, there <u>should be</u> a blanket organization, either area-based, or national. While there are national level organizations in existence today, we have a long way to go to make them dynamic and effective to the community/paraculture as a whole. The purpose of any national support group is to provide high speed support to the small local support groups that have limited resources and time. This support can come in the form of shared values as expressed in common bylaws and agendas, (why does every group need to invent their own?), approved and meaningful literature, and special assistance in the form of visiting experts and professionals, a kind of traveling road show, and the convention, both local and national. Tri-Ess comes closest to doing this. Unfortunately, their charter and agenda are quite restrictive and drives many crossdressers (and almost all transsexuals) away. Both IFGE and the Outreach are trying, but have a long way to go. As an aside and a personal plea to all the national level groups, I ask that you put your heads together and join forces for the common good. We are too few, too scattered, and too isolated to have several agendas.

In the end, regardless of what happens at the cosmic level, or even at the local level, remember you were once alone, confused and perhaps frightened. The only thing that saved you and allowed you to become a more complete person was the support some selfless sister willingly gave. As you journey through your life, return the favor. In doing so, you will find that you will be propelled into a new and wonderful existence that one person, alone, can never find.

- END -

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AUGUST (TBA), 1990:
4th annual MARDI GRAS (CANADA) Kandi Kane, Box 185, Perkinsfield, ON LOL 2J0 CANADA

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 1990:
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SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1990:
INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA CONFERENCE (U. of Manchester, ENGLAND) Alice, BM Charity, London, WC1N 3XX, England

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OCTOBER 19-21, 1990:
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OCTOBER 27, 1990:
31th annual GGRC HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL. Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA

NOVEMBER 1-4, 1990:
THE FALL HARVEST WEEKEND, & 'Moonshadow Ball' (Kansas City MO). CAF, Box 4092 Overland Park, KS 66204

NOVEMBER 2-4, 1990:
3rd annual INTER-GROUP HARMONY WEEKEND, Scarborough, England Martine Rose, P.O. Box 339, Sheffield S1 3SX England

NOVEMBER 14-18, 1990:
16th Annual HOLIDAY EN FEMME Heterosexual cross-dressers and their families. Tri-Ess/Holiday En Femme, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

NOVEMBER 16-18, 1990:
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DECEMBER (TBA), 1990:
Annual MISS CGS PAGEANT. CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

DECEMBER (TBA), 1990:
Annual "PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ" Awards Banquet. Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040

JANUARY (TBA), 1991:
7th annual MISS ETVC COTILLION ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101 415-763-3959, or Telzey, 415-849-4112

JANUARY 18-20, 1991:
HOPEFUL, a weekend retreat for couples The Outreach Institute 617-277-3454

JANUARY 25-26-27 1991:
10th Annual Tiffany Club Awards Banquet & Weekend. Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 2883, Woburn, MA 01888 (508) 358-2305

FEBRUARY 22-24, 1991:
The third annual "TEXAS 'T' PARTY". A 3-day outing. Boulton & Park Society, P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 (512) 657-2540

APRIL 8-14, 1991:
5th annual 'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION - DENVER. 'Coming Together', P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617)894-8340)

MAY 2-5, 1991:
1st annual CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 714-779-9013 weekdays 7:00 - 10:00pm

MAY 3-5, 1991:
WEEKEND EN FEMME IN HOUSTON, GCTC, c/o Jackie Thorne, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244

MAY 10-12, 1991:
SPRING 1990 POCONO FANTASY FESTIVAL. Fem Fashions, PH B, 157 W 57th St, NYC, NY 10019 (212) 582-6823, Muriel Olive

MAY & SEPTEMBER: PARADISE IN THE POCONOS Held the 3rd weekend of May and September. Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 (215) 640-9449.

MAY 28 - JUNE 2, 1991:
11th Annual TIFFANY CLUB'S P-TOWN OUTING. Tiffany Club,Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 (508) 358-2305

JUNE 5-9, 1991:
9th Annual "BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE". Cleveland Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129

APRIL 6-12, 1992:
6th annual 'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION - SAN ANTONIO IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

MARCH (TBA), 1993:
7th annual 'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION - PHILADELPHIA IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

BULLETINS, NOTICES, NEWS

Seated L-R: Virginia Prince (Alpha Chapter, CA), Yvonne Cook (Dir. Operations, IXE, IN), Wendi Pierce (Chairman, A Rose, AZ), Merissa Lynn (Exec. Director, Tiffany Club, NH), Ellen Summers (Vice-Chairman, NWGA, OR), Sheila Kirk (Exec. Committee, TransPitt, PA), Dorothy Finch (Cornbury Society, CAN)

Standing L-R: Renee Chevalier (PPOC, CA), Diane Ingram (Alpha Zeta, AZ), Janice Rupard (Boulton & Park, TX), Holly Cross (Tiffany Club, MA), Glenda Jones (Fiesta, NM), Linda Buten (CrossPort, KY), Jane Ellen Fairfax (Tau Chi, TX), Eve Burchert (Chi Chapter, IL), Bette Johnson (Delta Omega, TX), Naomi Owen (Chi Chapter, IL), Robin Esch (Tiffany Club, MA), Dr. Roger Peo (NY)

Missing: Karen Baumgardner (CGA, IL), Patricia Fisher (FACT, CAN), Roni Lang (NWGA, OR), Betty Ann Lind (Outreach Institute, VA), Nancy Ann Martine (ETVC, CA), Linda McKim (CHIC, CA), Delores Merhige (LIFE, NY), Rupert Raj (CAN), Maureen Taylor (Outreach Institute, NY), Janice Van Cleve (Emerald City, WA), Samantha Walls (Delta Omega, TX)

I.F.G.E. INTRODUCES ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1990

Waltham, MA 5/90: Stressing the importance of the eclectic nature of the IFGE Board, Merissa Lynn, the Executive Director of IFGE, stated, "IFGE's primary purpose is to help make people's lives better. To do that," Merissa continued, "IFGE must be led by capable people with varied interests and different backgrounds, people who care about others and willing to work together for the benefit of all. Such is the nature, of IFGE's Board for 1990."

To point out how eclectic the Board is, Merissa pointed out that the members of the 1990 IFGE Board of Directors span the North American continent. They come from Boston, to Los Angeles, to Houston, to Montreal, to Vancouver. Eventually IFGE plans to have members from around the world. The members of the Board span the gender spectrum from heterosexual cross-dressers, to post-op Female-to-Male and Male-to-Female transsexuals, to medical and mental health professionals.

"It is important," Merissa concluded, "that people understand IFGE is neither a local nor a special interest organization. It is an organization formed to serve our world-wide community and those affected by our community. The IFGE Board of Directors is made up of the best of our community elected to serve us all without bias."

INTRODUCING THE 'TRINITY' AWARDS

Portland, OR: The IFGE Nominations & Awards Committee announces that in addition to the annual "Dr. Prince Lifetime Contribution" award, IFGE will be presenting an unspecified number of new awards called "The Trinity".

The Trinity award will be a beautiful gold statue fashioned after IFGE's logo (the hands and the rose), which symbol-

The 'Trinity' will be used as an award (similar to a Pulitzer, or Oscar) to acknowledge and honor outstanding achievement and service to the cross-dressing/transsexual community in such fields as public relations, or education, or outreach, or literature.

The ceremonial presentation of the Trinities will be made at the annual 'Coming Together' convention.

Ellen Summers, Chairperson of the IFGE Nominations & Awards Committee, states the primary purpose of the Trinity award is to seek out the real heros of our community, and say a simple but elegant "thank you!" There would be no special "categories", no "best" or "most" of anything; just we, as a community, acknowledging and honoring a significant contribution made by an individual, organization, or service.

Ellen has appointed Janice Rupard (Alternate IFGE Board of Directors, Representative Boulten & Park in Texas) to coordinate the search for recipients.

Questions and comments concerning this project may be addressed to: Ellen Summers, P.O. Box 230172 Tigard Br, Portland, OR 97223

LOU SULLIVAN TRIBUTE

San Francisco, CA: Saturday, May 12, ETVC sponsored a luncheon tribute to Lou Sullivan, the author of "From Female To Male, The Life of Jack Bee Garland". The luncheon was held at the German Oaks Bavarian Restaurant in San Francisco.

Lou, a writer and historian, and member of the Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Historical Society, was being honored for his pioneering work on Female-to-Male issues, and for his lifetime contribution to the TV/TS community.

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I.F.G.E.
PUBLICATIONS - REPRINTS

BACK ISSUES TV-TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL
Issues 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, & 55 $10.00 per copy
Issues 47, 48, & 49 (SOLD OUT)
Issues 40 to 46 $8.00 per copy
Issue 39 $ 6.00 per copy
(# 33 - 38 SOLD OUT) (Issues 1-32 were in newsletter form and are not available)

DEFINITIONS $5.00
By Merissa Sherrill Lynn. An in-depth examination of primary terms ('transvestite', transsexual', etc.) and the econdary terms that affect our understanding of the primary terms. The emphasis is on communications rather than universally accepted definitions.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - RELIGION $5.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of cross-dressing and religion.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - TRANSSEXUALISM $10.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subjects of transsexualism and female-male crossdressing

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - WIVES & PARTNERS $10.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters of special interest to wives and significant others of crossdressers.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - HORMONES $5.00
A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of hormones.

THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIVE, by Dr. Virginia Prince $10.00

UNDERSTANDING CROSSDRESSING, by Dr. Virginia Prince $11.00

HOW TO BE A WOMAN THOUGH MALE, by Dr. Virnina Prince $12.00

ART AND ILLUSION: A GUIDE TO CROSSDRESSING, by JoAnn Roberts $10.00

SPEAKING AS A WOMAN, by Alison Laing $8.00
A guide for those who desire to communicate in a more feminine manner.

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH, by Walter L. Williams $10.00 plus $2.50 P&H
Sexual diversity in American Indian culture.

TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior, by Dr. Richard F. Docter $35.00 plus $2.50 P&H
A "MUST" for anyone who owns a personal library on crossdressing. Represents 10 years of original research.

MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES, by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D. $10.00 plus $1.50 P&H

TRANSFORMATIONS: CROSSDRESSERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM, a photographic journal by Mariette Pathy Allen $24.95 plus $2.50 P&H

GENDER DYSPHORIA: DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, MANAGEMENT, Edited by Betty W. Steiner, Clark Institute of Psychiatry $65.00 plus $2.50 S&H

GENDER BLENDING: CONFRONTING THE LIMITS OF DUALITY, by Holly Devor $13.00 plus $1.50 S&H
Holly examines the social construction of gender and its implications for the lives of gender blending females.

BODY PACKAGING: A GUIDE TO HUMAN SEXUAL DISPLAY, by Julian Robinson $27.00 plus $2.50 S&H
A copiously and stunningly illustrated book about body adornment in all its fascinating forms.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF TRANSSEXUALISM - 1990 edition, by Sr. Mary Elizabeth SSE $10.00

FROM MASCULINE TO FEMININE AND ALL POINTS IN BETWEEN, by Jennifer Ann Stevens $19.95 plus $2.50 S&H
An easy to read "how to" guide

FANTASTIC WOMEN: Sex, Gender and Transvestism, by Annie Woodhouse $14.00 plus $1.50 S&H
First book to explore transvestism from the feminist standpoint.

FROM FEMALE TO MALE: The Life of Jack Bee Garland, by Louis Sullivan $8.95 plus $1.50 S&H
The true story of a female to male crossdresser at the turn of the century.

Please allow four to six weeks for delivery. Make checks and money orders payable to: "IFGE", P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340

Louis Graydon Sullivan, writer and historian
(photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

.... PRESS RELEASE ....

MINORITIES TRUST & TRANSCARE
P.O. BOX 2983, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

On Thursday evening, April 26th, 1990, a group called 'COMMON GROUND - A COALITION OF MINORITY GROUPS WITHOUT RIGHTS' was formally launched in the main foyer of the National Library Building in Wellington, NZ.

'Common Ground', a group which includes the disabled, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, youth, elderly, and gender minorities (TV's & TS's) was launched by an opening address by Elizabeth Tennent M.P. In her address, Elizabeth made reference to the European Parliaments move towards outlawing discrimination on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation, and how New Zealand lagged behind the reforms of some of its allies overseas.

The opening address was followed by speakers representing each of the Coalition groups. Leone Neil, founder of Transcare, spoke before 'Television New Zealand' and was later interviewed by 'Radio New Zealand'. Leone spoke about a number of important laws, and proposed amendments to bring them in line with reforms in South Australia, reforms from which post-operative transsexuals will benefit. Leone also pointed out how discrimination against gender minorities was State controlled and State organized in New Zealand.

To help people come to a better understanding of the nature of crossdressing and transsexualism, Leone set up a display of literature, books, and handout material near the entrance. This display included publications from Australia, South Africa, United Kingdom, and throughout the USA & Canada. Predominant in the display were several issues of the TV/TS Tapestry, the books 'Transformations' and 'The Spirit and the Flesh', and other literature about ethnic traditions. Television New Zealand took great pains to film this display in detail, and many who attended the opening took a great interest in the wide range the display offered.

This was the first public display of crossdressing material in New Zealand, and perhaps it was appropriate the opening was held in the State National Library which holds the country's treasures in literature.

Leone adds that is Common Ground's intention to push for the human rights legislation being introduced into parliament later this year. Included in this legislation will be a vote for crossdressers rights. Once the Human Rights Commission Act has been amended, Common Ground Member Groups will continue to monitor the implementation of the amendments through education and possibly prosecutions, to ensure that reforms are being administered.

In conclusion Leone states that reforms only come when you take a stand upon issues affecting your rights. Otherwise, you achieve nothing.

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IFGE CONGRESS OF REPRESENTATIVES SETS PRIORITIES

Natick, MA 4/90: At the 4th Annual 'Coming Together' Convention, 54 representatives from non-profit organizations throughout North America and Great Britain met to discuss issues of international concern. 17 issues were presented and prioritized by the representatives. Those 17 items in the ranking of importance are as follows:

1. Regional Events Calendar published by the IFGE for inclusion in group newsletters.
2. Regional Speakers Bureau coordinated by IFGE to travel around the country and speak in person or on radio/television.
3. Cooperation with the Gay and Women's Movement in political efforts as natural allies.
4. Groups 'How To' Manual dealing with starting, maintaining, and motivating groups; selecting and grooming leaders who can encourage members who primarily want to have fun to participate as volunteers or future
5. Regional Coordination of Activities to prevent conflicting scheduling of events.
6. Helping Professionals Listings collected locally by groups and forwarded to IFGE for the National Directory.
7. Gender Community Guide of friendly places of interest, services, and organizations for the National Directory.
8. Political Action and Phone Tree for issues under legislation, generating letters and petitions.
9. National Advertising via radio, television (by celebrities), magazines, and newspapers as a Public Service Announcement of IFGE's existing services.
10. Guide for Seeking Professional Help when dealing with crossdressing or gender conflicted individuals who may need more than peer counseling.
11. Computer E-Mail perhaps through a computer service with monthly fees, for better and more efficient communication between groups.
12. Gender Community Census data gathered by groups and sent to IFGE to help create a national gender community census.
13. Remove Crossdressing from DSM-III-R as a disorder and distinguished as a difference from transsexualism, and/or removing transsexualism as well.
14. Group Guidelines and Checks for new support groups (particularly significant others) to encourage groups to create a positive example in their community.
15. Cooperative Fundraising between groups to benefit IFGE.
16. Ambassador Guide Lines for gender groups when dealing with the general society.
17. Travel Host/Hostess delegated locally to assist gender community visitors traveling through the area.

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** PRESS RELEASE **

THE EMERALD CITY
P.O. Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Port Angeles, WA 4/30: The Emerald City club of Seattle is pleased to announce that its recent "90 in 90" resort weekend in Port Angeles, Washington, was a complete success. Over 50 cross-dressers participated in a series of classes, tours, banquets, and social events spanning three days from April 26 through April 29, 1990, in this sunny seacoast town of 35,000. In spite of its reputation as a small, conservative logging town, the people of Port Angeles proved to be friendly, helpful, and curious. The cross-dressers were welcomed in the churches and the shops and drew only an occasional stare in the local restaurants.

The "90 in 90" Weekend was a success for Port Angeles as well. The outing pumped well over $12,000 into the local economy, and many of the local vendors reaped a handsome profit. "90 in 90" treasurer, Janice Van Cleve, emphasized her commitment to the local community, "Wherever we go, we want to participate as fully as possible within the local population and we encourage them to do business with us and support our activities."

The purpose of "90 in 90" was to bring together cross-dressers from all around the Puget Sound area and provide them a safe, educational, and enjoyable weekend. "We far exceeded our goals," reported Michelle Lee, "90 in 90" coordinator. "We had people from Alaska, Canada, Oregon, California, Tennessee, Massachusetts, and Texas, as well as Washington." Several brought their wives, who found the Emerald City to be a friendly, open group, "even better than the country club," quipped a wife.

The event drew out several cross-dressers who had never gone anywhere outside their homes before, and nine more who had only been to a few private meetings.

The highlight of the event was a ferry ride to Victoria, BC for high tea at the Empress Hotel. Customs and immigration officials had been prepared in advance to smooth the border crossing and the people of Victoria were delighted by the visit.

There were a minimum of speeches and a maximum of meeting new friends and enjoying old ones. The dance music and laughter were so inviting that a number of local citizens asked to join in. In fact the cross-dressers who visited the lounge never got a chance to be lonely or thirsty, as curious and supportive citizens almost always bought them drinks and engaged in small talk or serious discussions.

Merissa S. Lynn, Executive Director of IFGE, attended to encourage groups in the Northwest to share their energy and enthusiasm with the rest of the country. "We are building a community," spoke Merissa at the Saturday banquet. "We have to seek the welfare and happiness of all people, in all social strata and geographical locations." Merissa's attendance is a mark of special recognition of the importance of the Northwest.

""90 in 90" was so successful," reports Janice Van Cleve, "that we are working cooperatively with the Cornbury Society of Vancouver, British Columbia, and the Northwest Gender Alliance of Portland, Oregon, to plan a similar event next year in Port Angeles, and perhaps the year after in Vancouver." Anyone wishing additional information may contact: The Emerald City, P.O. Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103.

$25,000.00 DONATED TO I.F.G.E., KICKS OFF FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

Pittsburgh, PA 6/10/90: At the I.F.G.E. Board of Directors meeting held recently at the 'Be All' convention in Pittsburgh, Merissa Lynn, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, announced that I.F.G.E. had received an anonymous gift of $25,000.00. The gift has been permanently deposited in the IFGE Foundation Trust Fund.

Yvonne Cook, I.F.G.E. Director of Operations explained that in June, 1989, I.F.G.E. received a contribution from Cross-Port of Cincinnati which established the I.F.G.E. Foundation Trust Fund. As the Trust Fund grows the income it produces will fund such things as research grants, the publication of educational and reference journals, etcetera. In the future, I.F.G.E.'s ability to serve the CD/TS community will be based on the income generated by the Trust.

Merissa added, "The income from that $25,000.00 gift alone will just about pay for the research, compilation, publication and distribution of the consumer manuals currently being put together by our Legal & By-Laws and Educational Resources committees. But this gift is only a start and the consumer manuals are only one project. Yes, the gift is a very important one, given by a wonderful and dedicated individual who was able to give, but it is only one gift, and only a beginning.

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GENDER WORKER AWARD

Toronto, CAN, 5/90: Rupert Raj-Gauthier, Director of 'Gender Worker', announces a "GENDER WORKER AWARD" plaque is being presented to the 12 resource workers for their long term dedication and outstanding service to the TS and/or TV community: Louis Sullivan, Phoebe Smith, Sister Mary Elizabeth SSE, Jude Patton, Stephen Parent, Susan Huxford, Judy Cousins, Ariadne Kane, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, JoAnn Roberts, Sheila Kirk, and Roger Peo. These diligent and dedicated people (10 Americans, one Canadian, and one Englishwoman) have been carefully chosen from a larger number of also-deserving individuals to be the sole recipients of this prestigious award, which is to be presented over the course of the year. Hearty congratulations to these most well-deserving people!

HELP WANTED

Full-time or part-time employment with career potential serving the cross-gender community. Should be computer literate. Familiarity with WordPerfect & PageMaker a plus. Salary and full benefit package. Send resume to: IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 1-617-894-8340

DR. JOHN BROWN IN PRISON

Hollywood, CA 3/90: The American Transsexual Education Center (A.T.E.C.) reports that Dr. John Ronald Brown (known in some circles as "Butcher" Brown) of Chula Vista, CA., was found guilty in a San Diego courtroom of four counts of practicing medicine without a licence. He was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay $10,000 to a 30 year old Orange County transsexual due to gross negligence.

Brown has performed over 500 gender reassignment surgeries in his 40 years of practice. He is well known in the gender community but has always been the subject of much controversy with some of his former patients swearing by him, and others swearing at him.

Brown's licence was revoked in 1977 because of gross negligence and was unsuccessful in his 1983 bid to get it back. In 1985 he was convicted in San Francisco of practicing without a licence for doing the same kind of surgeries and ordered not to continue. Since that time Brown has been practicing in Mexico.

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SPECIAL MESSAGE

SUBJECT: FUND RAISING

FROM: Joni Chrissman, Coordinator Fund Raising Ad Hoc Task Force of the IFGE Marketing Committee

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends

Beginning in 1978, a few committed sisters shared a vision and a dream for building an organization to serve our gender community. Due to their leadership and the hard work of countless others, IFGE has today become the premier international organization delivering numerous services to our community.

Despite limited human and financial resources, IFGE has enjoyed enormous success in organizing and implementing many programs for outreach, communication, cooperative action, and education both within our community and to society as well. The last 'Coming Together' convention identified our need for even more services and I suspect that demand will continue to dramatically increase in the 1990's.

Until now IFGE has somehow managed to conduct its operations with lots of blood, sweat, tears, and extremely limited financial resources. Net revenues generated from sales of Tapestry, reprints, and books have comprised better than 90% of the IFGE annual budget. Past contributions have supplemented the budget, but in 1988 and 1989 combined IFGE received less than $25,000 in contributions. This represents less than 10% of the total income. This is grossly inadequate.

I believe we have the need and the capacity to raise substantially more in contributions than we have in the past. The demand for services and the financial cost of delivering services is increasing dramatically. IFGE, to be successful in the 1990's, needs money ... and lots of it. IFGE expects to be short of funding in the $100,000 to $200,000 range. This current need is immediate.

This financial shortfall does not include our desire to build a substantial IFGE Trust Fund which will ensure success through the next decade and beyond.

I have volunteered to lead an ad hoc task force to address the long term funding needs of IFGE. Working with Yvonne Cook, Chairperson IFGE Financial Committee, Jane Fee, Chairperson IFGE Marketing Committee, and others, I hope to analyze, design, and recommend to the IFGE leadership a long term strategic plan providing for raising substantial funding in a major capital campaign. If successful, this capital will allow the IFGE leadership to once and forever eliminate living on the edge financially.

Most of us can't be as visible in society as we would sometimes wish. Yet, we all benefit every day from the representation, hard work, and efforts of the IFGE leadership. Now is the time to help these committed sisters and brothers out. Please think about the very tangible value all of receive from these services and look into your heart. Find something to contribute financially to meet IFGE's current and future needs. Any amount you could give will be welcomed.

All contributions are tax deductible, with receipt gratefully acknowledged. Any contributions could be paid by check, Visa/MasterCard, or stock or bond assignment. We also welcome designated contributions (Foundation Trust Fund, Christine Jorgensen Fund, Special Programs Fund), as well as anonymous contributions.

Recognizing that this vital campaign will not be an easy task, I would welcome any input, or direction from any of you.

Thank you, and much love!

Joni Chrissman
P.O. Box 3954, Minneapolis, MN 55403

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INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION for GENDER EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS

POLICY:

Contributions are an important source of revenue to IFGE. These funds enable IFGE to provide the necessary human and capital resources to serve the needs of our community. IFGE does not benefit from government, public, or United Way monies. It is entirely supported by revenue generated from the sale of publications, programs, and contributions.

All contributions are tax deductible, with receipt gratefully acknowledged, and kept totally confidential if the donor so desires. The contribution may be designated by the donor to any of the four funds described below, or be used for a specified purpose (such as a scholarship, or research grant). IFGE accepts cash, checks, Visa/MasterCard, or stock or bond assignments.

Remembering IFGE in your estate planning, will, or trust is a loving gesture which will permit us to build a significant trust fund to meet our community's needs for the next decade and beyond.

Living Memorials: Living memorials are sent to I.F.G.E. in memory of departed sisters, brothers, family members, and friends. Some memorials and contributions become a part of the permanent Foundation Trust Fund. Other memorials are given to a specified fund. I.F.G.E. wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, and organizations who saw fit to remember their loved ones with a contribution to I.F.G.E.'s memorial Funds. These contributions will provide a lasting memorial to the memory of these friends and members of our community.

The IFGE Foundation Trust Fund: This fund has been established to provide a strong and permanent financial base. Only the income generated by this fund are used. Contributions to this fund are living contributions.

The Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives and to address other transsexual issues.

The IFGE Programs Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the development and presentation of programs such as the international convention, conferences, workshops, seminars, and public speaking engagements.

The IFGE General Fund: This fund has been established to assist with miscellaneous funding needs. These needs include but are not limited to maintaining an office, a staff, purchasing and maintaining capital equipment, assisting IFGE committee projects such as educational resources and marketing, and improving communications with and support of our community's organizations and services.

The Foundation Trust Fund
I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following contributors:
Nancy C.
Everett V. Weld
Chicago Gender Society
Chi Chapter, Tri-Ess
Anonymous (WA)
NY State Gender Coalition
Beveridge W. Dunlop
Anonymous (MN)
Cross-Port
Gemini II

The Christine Jorgensen Fund
I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following contributors:
William L. Springer
Terry Susan Scott
Jennifer Palonus
Philadelphia Chapter, Renaissance
Jennifer Martian
Jeffrey A. Flach
Gabrielle Grower
Miss Sigrid Kay Warschauss
Anonymous (MN)

I.F.G.E. wishes to thank those persons who have substantially contributed to its general operations. I.F.G.E. gratefully acknowledges the following members of the "500 CLUB" (accumulated gifts of $500.00 or more), members of the "1000 CLUB" (accumulated gifts of $1000.00 or more), members of the "2500 CLUB" (accumulated gifts of $2500.00 or more), members of the "5000 CLUB" (accumulated gifts of $5000.00 or more), and "BENEFACTORS" (accumulated gifts of $10,000.00 or more):

"500 CLUB"
Carol Mathes, James Kenyon, Sharon McGrath,
Dawn Law, Wendy Pierce

"1000 CLUB"
Anonymous (CT), Winnie Brant, Nancy C., Michelle Miles, Wendy Parker, Joni Chrissman, Dominique Brown

"2500 CLUB"
Kay Metsker, Sheila Kirk

"BENEFACTOR"
Anonymous
($25,000.00)

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

(Updated July 1990)
(All listings sorted according to category and postal zip code)

(For insertions, corrections, and deletions: IFGE Directory, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778)
(New orgranizations, services, and individuals interested in forming new groups are welcome)

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION: I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 894-8340. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: I.F.G.E. is a non-profit educational and service organization designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by that Community.

Services: I.F.G.E. publishes the TV-TS Tapestry Journal and other publications relevant to the TV/TS theme. We sponsor an annual international convention. We serve as an international information and referral clearinghouse, speakers' bureau, and a safe, friendly "drop-in center" for emergency peer counselling and ongoing volunteer work.

TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS: Tapestry, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 899-2212 Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: Tapestry Publications is a division of I.F.G.E.

Services: The TV/TS Tapestry is I.F.G.E's primary publication. We also publish and market a wide variety of how-to books, presentation transcripts, anthologies of pertinent reprints, directories, and other timely material. Tapestry Publications is designed as the gender community's own publishing house.

IFGE CONGRESS OF REPRESENTATIVES: Congress of Representatives, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340 Sonia Gale, Coordinator

Nature: The Congress of Representatives are individuals selected by independent non-profit organizations, services, and chapters to represent the special interests of their organizations. Also, the representatives serve as the communications conduit between their organizations, the IFGE national headquarters, the IFGE Board of Directors, the IFGE national committees, and with other organizations.

TIFFANY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, Inc.: TCNE, Box 2283, Wobum, MA 01888. (508) 358-2305. Ms. Roberta D., President

Nature: Tiffany is a non-profit social and educational organization for anyone desiring to explore and develop their total personality for the attainment of a peace of mind not otherwise possible. Tiffany provides support programs for the individual member, family, and friends.

Services: Tiffany services and activities include but are not limited to publishing the Rosebuds newsletter, operating a safe-house, and organizing "get-togethers", workshops, seminars, and beauty courses. Tiffany sponsors a formal Wives and Significant Others support group, an informal TS support group, parties, nights on the town, referrals, a speakers bureau, and group outings.

Security: Tiffany welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will exercise good manners, use common sense, and protect the security and peace-of-mind of all. Attendees must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee. Altemately, the applicant must present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to insure that the attendee understands Tiffany's objectives and will comply with Tiffany's code of conduct and security requirements.

TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP: WSG, C/O Box 2283, Wobum, MA 01888, (508) 358-2305. Toini McDonald, Director

Nature: Affiliated with the Tiffany Club. For those in a committed relationship with members in good standing at the Tiffany Club.

Services: Monthly meetings, one-on-one support, outings, and other events.

Security: See 'Tiffany Club'.

COUPLES SUPPORT GROUP: Couples Support Group, c/o P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 K. & C. Blake, Co-Directors For information call: (617) 894-8340 or (617) 899-2212

Nature: A moderated rap group to encourage continuing open communication between two partners in a committed relationship where one partner is a cross-dresser.

Services: Scheduled meetings held on the 3rd Friday of each month, 8-10 p.m. at the IFGE headquarters, 6 Cushing St., Waltham, MA. No fees.

Security: Partners do not cross-dress for meetings. Newcomers welcome - please call ahead.

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE: Outreach, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215. Ariadne Kane, Dir. (617) 277-3454

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit educational corporation. Outreach works primarily with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance and Counselling, Therapy, Medicine, Law and Law Enforcement, Nursing, and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include OPERN (Outreach Professional Evaluation and Referral Network), seminars and workshops, a newsletter, Fantasia Fair (a living/learning experience for both male and female crossdressers, transsexuals, and androgynes) and a book and publication service. A catalog of books and reprints is available for $5.00. Outreach also offers two information packets: one each for F-M and for M-F TSs at $25.00 each.

Security: Outreach's programs are highly sophisticated and strictly non-sexual. All participants in any Outreach program are expected to behave accordingly.

THE ADAM SOCIETY: The Adam Society, c/o Dan Riley, 6 Cushing St., 2nd Fl., Waltham, MA 02154

Nature: A non-profit support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings. Publishes Adam's Word.

Security: Inquire

RHODE ISLAND

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MAINE

TRANSSUPPORT: TransSupport, Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings. Inquire for time and place. Publishes 'Trans-Talk' newsletter.

Security: Inquire

VERMONT

CONNECTICUT

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB (Hartford, CT): The XX Club, Box 80690, Forest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01138

Nature: The XX Club is non-profit and non-sexual. It is a social, educational, medical, and outreach organization for persons interested in transsexualism. Friends and relatives are also welcomed, as are all those interested in or involved with the crossdressing community.

Services: The XX Club publishes a monthly newsletter. It holds two meetings each month (second and fourth Saturdays, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.) at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. The meetings include educational and medical presentations, outreach work, and information distribution. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, and other events.

Security: We place no security restrictions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. However, any person wishing to attend our meetings must meet with and be cleared by a member of our screening committee, or present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands the XX Club's objectives and goals and that the individual will comply with security requirements and code of conduct. We request that all who attend our functions respect our anonymity.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT: Karin W., c/o P.O. Box 806, Higganum, CT 06441-0806

Nature: Non-profit support group for genetic girls whose boyfriend, brother, father, husband, or son may be a TV, TS, or gender dysphoric individual.

Services: At this time we offer very discreet correspondence only. However, get-togethers are being planned.

Security: Discretion required.

CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY: P.O. Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

Nature: Non-profit and non-sexual but respectful of its members' sexual preferences. Its objectives are to promote and propagate the friendship of the TV/TS community through education, support, and understanding of its members and their families.

Service: Punctual response to all communications, informative monthly newsletter 'Connecticut View', Wives Support Group, rap sessions, parties at various locations. Wig, makeup, clothing, and demeanor assistance available. Costs shared by participants.

Security: None. House parties on an invitational basis, bar parties open. All members are required to be discreet and tolerant of each other. Common sense and courtesy prevail.

HARRIET LANE'S TV SET: P.O. Box 4002, Wallingford, CT 06492 (203) 237-1968 (ask for Harriet Lane or Joanie Lassin)

Nature: Home parties for open-minded TVs, TGs, TSs, and their immediate spouse or friends.

Services: Meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday each month. Membership $100.00 per year. Key members $250.00 (store clothes & have key between 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.). Information on TV activities. Newsletter.

Security: All TVs etc. must dress at the clubhouse. Dressing room provided. Discretion required. Contact Harriet or Joanie for phone interview & personal meeting.

NEW JERSEY

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Ms. Kimberly S. Grant, 7 Mill Road, Irvington, NJ 07111

Nature: Transsexual support group.

Services: Meetings.

Security: Inquire

F_2M: c/o S.G., Box 615, Tenafly, NJ 07670.

Nature: A non-profit social and support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals and crossdressers. "Knowledge is the key to the door of gender-reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential."

Services: Social events in the New York area, confidential contacts, a comprehensive resource directory, and a newsletter. Compiling information necessary to the F-M transition into a central database. F_2M actively solicits correspondence: questions, concerns, and all items of F-M TS information are requested.

Security: We believe that confidentiality, and often anonymity are critical issues for TSs on our mailing list. All correspondence is considered confidential.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Ms. Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960; 201-663-0772.

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual.

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in northern NJ. Ms. Frank now handles the TV-related affairs of the dissolved Pine Brook, NJ chapter as well.

Security: Interview required.

TRANSFORMATIONS, Reflections On Gender Roles And Religious/Spiritual Values: Joy Helms, P.O. Box 1355, Princeton, NJ 08542

Nature: A non-profit quarterly newsletter which addresses the relationship between issues relating to gender struggles and religious/spiritual values.

SIGMA NU RHO CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Sigma Nu Rho, P.O. Box 9255, Trenton, NJ 08650

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

RENAISSANCE - SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Emily Sheldon, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social & support organization serving the gender community.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday each month.

Security: Inquire

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: NYCGA, c/o Fem Fashions, 9 W 31st St, #7R, New York, NY 10001, 212-582-6823. Muriel Olive, Director.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and friends of the TV/TS community.

12-STEP RECOVERY PROGRAM: New York City (212) 867-8746 J.L. White

Nature: Alcohol & substance abuse recovery program for CDs & TSs.

Services: Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

Security: Inquire

THE GATHERING: The Gathering, P.O. Box 29, New York, NY 10021 David Tolbin, Advisor

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual gender dysphoric support group devoted to assisting both males and females. Although membership is limited to persons who are TS, we invite TVs, TGs, and anyone seriously interested in gender dysphoria to attend our meetings.

Services: Meetings the 1st Sunday afternoon of every month to discuss common problems (meeting sites vary; inquire first), hear helping professionals, share experiences and information, and enjoy a pleasant social experience. Objectives include the development of a network of peer counsellors, distribution of pertinent literature, and resource guides to institutions and services. Publishes the "Passages" newsletter.

Security: Participation is open to all potential M-F and F-M pre-and post-operative transsexuals, friends, and relatives. Inquiry required.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY: The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Rapids Station, NYC, NY 10163, 212-477-6588.

Nature: For those with S/M and B/D fantasies. The oldest organization of its type.

Service: Frequent events specifically oriented toward the TV. Inquire for times and locations.

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Chi Delta Mu, P.O. Box 93, Mountainville, NY 10953 Hot Line (201) 663-0772

Nature: See "Society for the

Second Self".

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of each month in either northern New Jersey or southern Westchester County, NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence over five years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT: Girls Night Out, P.O. Box 369, Brooklyn, NY 11235

Nature: An open social and support group for TV's, TS's, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings in secure Manhattan location. Educational programs, advice and counseling. Partake in NYC nightlife. Dressing facilities available. Send S.A.S.E. for full information package.

Security: Inquire

LONG ISLAND FEMME EXPRESSION (LIFE): LIFE, Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

GENDER JOURNAL: c/o Jennifer Wells, Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181.

Nature: Non-profit newsletter for M-F TVs.

Services: Includes articles on current events, common sense, observations, beauty tips, and related matters.

TRANSGENDERISTS' INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC): TGIC, Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, 518-436-4513 (Thursdays 7-9 p.m., or leave a message and instructions for calling back.)

Nature: Non-sexual group offering support to crossdressers, transsexuals, mates, wives, and families.

Services: Two monthly parties, weekly support group raps, monthly mates/wives support group, bimonthly newsletter, shopping guide, key club, and storage.

Security: We have a screening process to ensure the comfort and safety of all. You may feel sure of anonymity and our discretion.

TRANSGENDER NETWORK: Transgender Network, P.O. Box 177, Tillson, NY 12486-0177

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social and educational support group for TV's, TS's, and SO's. Clergy and professionals are also welcome.

Services: Meetings 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month, social outings, beauty consultants, places to shop, mail order boutiques, guest speakers and referral service.

Security: All inquiries are made through our P.O. Box. Names, addresses and phone numbers of each member are held in strict confidentiality. We expect all who attend to exercise good manners and sense. Anonymity and discretion is requested to ensure privacy to all.

EON (Expressing Our Nature): EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

Nature: EON is a non-profit, non-sexual social and educational peer support group. It is comprised mainly of committed couples, one of which is a cross-dresser.

Services: We have social get-togethers in a pleasant atmosphere at the home of one of our members. We also have non-dress discussion groups for our couples and friends. We have several shops available which cater to our members. We also have a very active wives support group.

Security: EON requires a screening by a member of their screening committee prior to invitation as a guest. If you would like to become a guest, please contact us through our P.O. box. We welcome all mature and responsible people who enjoy the company of friends who share a common interest. We emphasize good manners, lady-like behavior, support, and security for all.

CROSSROADS OF BUFFALO: Crossroads of Buffalo, c/o M.C.C. Buffalo, P.O. Box 163, Buffalo, NY 14209 (716) 883-5149

Nature: Non-profit support group for transsexuals and their partners or family.

Services: Meetings held 4th Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. West Avenue Presbyterian Church facilities, 104 West Ferry St., Buffalo. (Use basement door.) Publishes 'Cross Currents'.

Security: Inquire

NU PHI CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Nu Phi Chi, P.O. Box 473 Bridge Sta., Niagara Falls, NY 14305-9998

Nature: Social support organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

CD-NETWORK: CD-Network, P.O. Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual support group for CD's, TS's, and their spouses. Over 50 members, mostly from upstate NY.

Services: Monthly meetings and social events in a secure, supportive and non-judgmental atmosphere. Monthly newsletter 'CD News'. Cooperative activities with other crossdresser groups in NY state.

Security: Newsletter sent to all members who have completed membership questionnaire. Invitation to meetings extended after screening interview, or with references from a sister organization.

PENNSYLVANIA

TRANSPITT: Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd-numbered month. Referrals.

Security: Meeting with Club officer.

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404 717-767-4095 (answering machine)

Nature: Non-profit support group for the gender community at large.

Services: Monthly meetings and newsletter.

Security: inquire

3R SUPPORT GROUP (RENAISSANCE RECOVERY REFLECTION): 3R Support Group, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020

Nature: 12 step support group for those in recovery from alcohol and drugs. Our primary purpose is to stay clean and sober, and to help support gender identity and recovery. We are in addition to, not in place of other programs.

Services: Meetings 3rd Saturday of each month at the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance location.

Security: Inquire

TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP OF PHILADELPHIA: TS Support Group, P.O. Box 15836, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Hotline: 215-336-7739 Denise Szetely, Director

Nature: A non-profit, non-political support group for are, have been, or think they may be transsexual. The purpose of the group is to ease the loneliness, the feeling of uniqueness, and to provide hope through open-mindedness on a common ground of mutual respect. The thrust of the group is geared toward the whole person, not just their sex or gender, but rather all aspects- physical, mental, emotional, and physical.

Services: Our group meets the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month at Dignity House, 252 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA. We have raps, workshops, and other events. Fees: $20.00 per year. No person is turned away due to affectional status or inability to pay.

RENAISSANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406. (215) 640-9449 (after 6:30 EST.)

Nature: Renaissance is a non-profit, non-sexual organization dedicated to the support and education of the transgendered community and the general population. It is an open group that accepts without judgement and helps individuals to grow at their own pace.

Services: For TVs and TSs. Monthly meetings with educational programs, Significant Other Support Group, Transsexual Support Group, TV rap groups, a monthly newsletter, and community activities. Call the Help Line 24 hours a day for information on the latest activities.

For professionals: Speakers Bureau with experienced and accomplished lecturers for college, university, radio, and television appearances anywhere in the US. Renaissance also publishes a series of Background Papers to help professionals and clients to understand transgender behavior.

Security: There is no screening process for prospective members. All member personal information is strictly confidential and available only to the Board of Directors.

READING CHAPTER - RENAISSANCE: Susan Marshall, Box 14221, Reading, PA 19607

Nature: Non-profit education and support group for the gender community.

Services: Meeting schedule not available. Inquire.

Security: Inquire

WASHINGTON DC

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON: R. Lewis, Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004-0724.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members of the TV/TS community.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

JANUS/DC: c/o H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Transsexual support. Not to be confused with the Society of Janus, a California S/M group with chapters having similar names.

GENDER IDENTITY OUTREACH CENTER USA: c/o Gary, Box 133, Westminster, MD 21157. Gary Fannin, Dir.

Nature: A non-profit nationwide support system for all transgender persons.

Services: A 24-hr hotline with TDD access for the hearing impaired and deaf. Monthly right-to-know workshops on issues pertinent to crossdressers. A monthly publication "The TV's Guide" and a "three for free" condom distribution center for the crossdressing community with an AIDS outreach program specifically designed for crossdressers.

Security: Open to all persons interested in transgender issues and the TV/TS liberation movement. All information is kept strictly confidential and available to the center's director.

MY CHOICE: c/o Shana Roberts, 7 S. Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 301-327-0061

Nature: We are a non-profit support group for TV's and TS's.

Services: We hold monthly meetings at a downtown church on Sunday evenings. Support and advice are given. We have a registered social worker qualified in TG issues at every meeting. We usually go out socializing after meetings. Shopping, make-up and coming-out help available.

Security: Interview by phone or in person required before attendance of meetings. Phone and address list available only to Shana Roberts and Kathy Lyn, who heads up our TS department.

DELAWARE

VIRGINIA

DELTA CHI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (DCEA): DCEA, P.O. Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, meetings one a month. Publishes "The Pinnacle" newsletter.

Security: Inquiry needed.

NORTH CAROLINA

KAPPA BETA - TRI ESS: Kappa Beta, P.O. Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving the Carolinas and Southern Virginia.

Services: Monthly meetings August to May, usually in Charlotte. Monthly newsletter, The Dixie Belle, $15.00 per year.

Security: Interview with Board member. Must be eligible to join (i.e., be a current member of Tri-Ess).

PHOENIX TRANSGENDER SUPPORT: Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Nature: Non-profit TV/TS support group. Significant others and friends welcome.

Services: Irregularly scheduled meetings. Inquire for time and location. 1 on 1 meetings if requested.

Security: Good manners, common sense, protect the security and peace of mind of all.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321.

Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals. $2.00 per copy; $12.00 per year.

THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC.: Gender Dysphoric Association, Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033. 404-603-7426 (answering machine)

Nature: Strictly a support group for F-M and M-F pre- and post-op transsexuals. No fees.

Services: Referrals, rap sessions, and programs designed for the needs of the transsexual. Publishes 'Insight' newsletter.

Security: Inquire

FLORIDA

FANTASIA: Fantasia, c/o GLCS, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, FL 32853-3446 contact: Sabrina Marcus

Nature: Social support group for all TV's & TS's.

Services: Group meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m. to discuss common problems, share experiences & network information. Objectives include promoting the TV/TS Community through education & understanding.

Security: Interview required.

SERENITY: Serenity, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022. Hotline: 305-921-8738

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of each month at the Church of the Holy Spirit (MCC), 330 SW 27th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

MOVING ON, REACHING & EXPERIENCING (M.O.R.E.): M.O.R.E., P.O. Box 100665, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-0665 contact: Josephine Williamson 305-966-2138

Nature: An action-based support group for the experienced male crossdresser. MORE will provide the support, friendship and trust necessary to allow the individual to explore and find their own answers of where in the gender spectrum they want to be.

Services: Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The meeting consist of a one hour topic discussion, a brief business meeting, and a group public activity.

Security: Mailing list is confidential. Telephone contact list is open to all members. Attendance by non-member requires interview.

BLOSSOM'S SAFE HOUSE: Blossom C. Paster, 28417 Trident Court, Wesley Chapel, FL 34249. (813) 973-0987.

Nature: A private setting where CDs can take their wardrobe, makeup, questions, and problems.

Services: Peer counselling, problem solving, dressing, electrology, and makeup advice by a longtime professional member of the Gender Community. There is a nominal fee.

Security: Call or write.

CENTRAL FLORIDA SISTERS (or PHI EPSILON MU): c/o Dale Larson, 11 Westchester Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34744-5826

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday of each month.

Security: Screening before attendance. Good manners and common sense.

ALABAMA

SIGMA EPSILON - TRI ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P.O. Box 339, Helena, AL 35080

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

MISSISSIPPI

BETA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS IN MISSISSIPPI: Beta Chi, P.O. Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39206-1253 Hotline: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs). Lee Frances, Secretary

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA. Publishes "Premiere" newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

TENNESSEE

KENTUCKY

OHIO

CRYSTAL CLUB: Crystal Club, P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0287 614-777-0648

Nature: An open support group for TV, TS, and others who cross-dress with a full feminine identity. We provide a non-threatening environment for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings the 4th Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with a meeting fee of $15.00. Peer support, newsletter. Buyers guide in preparation. We cooperate with neighboring organizations such as Alpha Omega, Paradise, and Cross-Port. Publishes The Crystal Chronical.

Security: Inquire. Include a brief biography of yourself, and tell them where you heard about us.

ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Omega, Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036

Nature: A social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Bi-monthly meetings. Publish the Alpha Omega Outreach newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance at a meeting requires the approval of a qualified Alpha Omega officer.

PARADISE CLUB: Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129.

Nature: Paradise is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an

emphasis on friendship and support, especially for wives. Paradise has approximately 90 members, with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.

Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter (Paradise Tales), and sponsors a meeting every other month with a catered dinner and usually a special event such as a speaker, make-up advice, a show, or other event of interest.

Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible. We place emphasis on manners, common sense, and the security of all.Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings with the concurrence of an officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

CROSS-PORT: Box 12701, Cincinnati, Ohio 45212 1-513-851-6174

Nature: Cross-Port is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends regardless of sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: Cross-Port distributes a monthly newsletter to all members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

INDIANA

INDIANA CROSSDRESSERS SOCIETY (Iota Chi Sigma): IXE, Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Nature: A non-profit TV/TS social/support group.

Services: We currently have about 20 members and have been meeting monthly in Indianapolis. Our BBS is up and running! Dial (317) 784-6975, select "KINKY BBS", leave E-Mail for "BOBBI ALYSON" or "SYSOP".

Security: Inquire.

MICHIGAN

CROSSROADS CHAPTER: Club address: Crossroads, c/o , Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245. Joanne Janiszewski, President. Business address: Box 1298, Flint, MI 48501. Phone messages: 313-446-0782.

Newsletter Editor: Karyn & Laura I., Box 40715, Redford, MI 48240.

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship, support, and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter (Crossroads Chatter) and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. We provide referrals to other organizations nationwide, and to helping professionals in the Great Lakes area. We also investigate agencies, businesses, and organizations, and do considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and emphasizes good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

CROSSROADS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: See Crossroads Chapter, above.

CROSSROADS SPEAKERS BUREAU: Milesa Phar, Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135.

NATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT GROUP: N.G.D.O, P.O. Box 02732, Detroit, MI 48202 (313) 842-5258. Justina Williams, President.

Nature: N.G.D.O. is a non-profit support/educational organization for the gender dysphoric (transsexual) community, and crossdressers.

Services: We publish The N.G.D.O. Key to Freedom. We offer referrals to compassionate helping professionals and support groups which are separated as to sexual orientation. We also offer a discrimination committee.

Security: The N.G.D.O. protects the privacy of its members. You can trust us. Meetings are held at a safe location.

THETA OMEGA GAMMA - TRI-ESS (Detroit area): Theta Omega Gamma, c/o Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275 (temporary address)

Nature: Social support for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CROSSDRESSERS: NAC, P.O. Box 497, Flint, MI 48501 Grace Bacon, Dir.

Nature: An organization dedicated to education and outreach.

Services: Publishes and distributes the informational pamphlet "An Overview of Crossdressing, Transvestism, and Transsexualism".

I.M.E. OF WESTERN MICHIGAN: Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

Nature: Social, support, and educational group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others, regardless of sexual orientation.

Services: Social outlet of the Cross Dresser. Mail forwarding. We have the services of a MSW social worker free of charge to members. Lectures and referrals. Monthly meetings and socials.

Security: All member files are strictly confidential. Prospective members must sign a pledge of confidentiality.

IOWA

IOTA ALPHA CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Iowa Artistry, Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Services: Inquire.

WISCONSIN

MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA FREEDOM OF GENDER EXPRESSION: MFGE, Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117.

Nature: An open service and peer support group for trans-gender persons, their significant others, and interested persons.

Services: Newsletter, peer support, services listings for members.

Security: Interview required, confidential membership listings used for newsletter and related organizational mailings only.

CITY OF LAKES CROSSGENDER COMMUNITY (CLCC): Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416. (612) 933-5288.

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together; however, personal orientation is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
MONTANA

ILLINOIS

CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040. Hot Line: 708-364-9514

Nature: Chicago Chapter of the Society for the Second Self, a non-profit organization for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services: Social activities, a support group for wives and girlfriends, a help line, newsletter, library, speakers bureau, and co-sponsor of "Be All You Want To Be" weekend. Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, annual family picnic, Awards Banquet, Christmas Party.

Security: Inquire.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY: The Sunday Society, P.O. Box 47056, Chicago, IL 60647 (312) 486-3125 Sheila L. Sampognaro or Louise L. Raeder

Nature: Non-profit transsexual outreach and support organization.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Sunday of each month 6-8 p.m. Monthly newsletter "Trans-World Bulletin" (subs. $20.00 per year). Computer bulletin board "The Sunday Society US TOO BBS" 7 nights a week from 10:00pm to 12:00am or by request. 2400, 1200, or 300 baud, 8-N-1 color, mono, or no graphics.

Security: Telephone interview required to attend meetings.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY: CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 975-8412

Nature: Non-profit social and educational support group for TVs, TSs, their significant others, and supportive friends.

Services: Professional referrals, business and social events several times a month, annual Miss CGS Pageant, picnics, mail forwarding, monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS GENDER ASSOCIATION (CIGA): CIGA, P.O. Box 126, Washington, IL 61571 Contact: JoAnn (309) 444-9918

Nature: CIGA is a non-profit, non-sexual association emphasizing support for the male-to-female and female-to-male TV and TS and their significant others. Significant others are encouraged to participate in our outreach program as well as monthly social events.

Services: Information on specific areas of gender dysphoria is available to members through our library system. Speakers may be provided to the general public on some subjects. Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Sunday - no charge. $20 annual dues includes the monthly newsletter.

Security: All members have pledged confidentiality. Interview required.

MISSOURI

ST LOUIS GATEWAY FEMMES: SLGF, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117.

Nature: A social/support group for the TV/TS Community and interested professionals. Provides members the opportunity to dress at meetings, share experiences, improve feminine abilities, and give each other the support we all need. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each even numbered month.

Services: A bi-monthly newsletter, the Gateway Femmes Gazette, club business cards, and a membership directory

KANSAS

GEMINI TWO: Gemini, 418 Linn St., Leavenworth, KS 66048 Ms Becky Gail Croslove, Dir.

Nature: Non-prohibitive CD/TV club meeting the needs of CD/TV's and wives. Singles also welcome. Non-sexual.

Services: Monthly meetings, referrals, good down to earth advise and an attentive ear when necessary.

Security: Meeting with member before attendance.

CROSSDRESSERS AND FRIENDS: c/o Randi Campbell, Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204.

Nature: Support for crossdressers and friends.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER DYSPHORIA SUPPORT: Gender Dysphoria Support, P.O. Box 15561, Shawnee Mission, KS 66215 (913) 371-0658 Anne Osbom, Facilitator

Nature: Social/support group for people who are in transition, or have changed gender.

Services: Provides peer group support for people in and post transition, and their significant others. Dedicated to providing services to F-M's and M-F's equally. Open to people of all sexual orientations. Meet Friday evenings.

Security: Contact Anne

WICHITA TRANSGENDER ALLIANCE: Wichita Transgender Alliance, P.o. Box 315, Kechi, KS 67067

Nature: Non-sexual peer support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their spouses, and significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings (currently the 3rd Friday of the month) at a local church; a small donation is requested but not required. We provide mutual support, social get-togethers, and referrals to sympathetic helping professionals, electrologists, retailers, etc.

Security: A chat with an officer of the Alliance to ensure that you'd benefit from membership; privacy is assured.

NEBRASKA

RIVER CITY: Box 1305, Belleview, NE 68005.

Nature: Non-profit educational, support, and social group for TVs, TSs, and significant others.

Services: We currently have about 20 members, meet monthly in Omaha, and have a newsletter "The Transformer". We network with other groups and sisters. We work with local helping professionals, perform outreach, and maintain files of educational and resource material including listings of local services.

Security: Inquire.

RHO CHI RHO CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Rho Chi Rho, Box 24060, Omaha, NB 68124-0060

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

ARKANSAS

LOUISIANA

TRI DELTA CHI, TRI ESS: Tri Delta Chi, Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300

Nature: New Orleans chapter of the Society for the Second Self serving members in southeast Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and northwest Florida. We are in the growing stage and are publishing newsletters and holding meetings on a sporadic basis. This is an organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives/S.O.'s, and is primarily a "social" support group.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Mailing list for newsletter is open, for a fee of $5.00 yearly. Attendance at meetings and functions requires screening by Board.

OKLAHOMA

CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL (C.D.I.): C.D.I., c/o Ms Gwen Pete, P.O. Box 50192, Tulsa, OK 74104 (918) 582-6643/835-5334

Nature: Social organization and support group welcomes TV's, TS's, and interested parties. No one excluded for sex or sexual preference.

Services: Get-togethers every other Saturday and someone is generally available for telephone contact 7 days a week. We listen, talk, and offer support for all phases of transgenderism.

Security: Confidentiality is assured and expected.

TEXAS

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Delta Omega, P.O. Box 1021, Arlington, TX 76004-1021 Hotline: Metro 817-429-1929

Nature: Social, for heterosexual TVs and their significant others. Serving the transgender community of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Services: Social activities; publish The Texas Rose newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with a chapter officer.

GULF COAST TRANSVESTITE CHAPTER: GCTC, P.O. ox 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Nature: Social support group for CDs, TSs, and SOs.

Services: Inquire

Security: Inquire

TAU CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Tau Chi, Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411-1105

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with the chapter president.

BOULTON AND PARK SOCIETY: Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252. Hotline: 512-657-2540

Nature: open, non-profit, non-sexual. Social and peer support plus local information for transsexual, transvestic, and transgendered folks, their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter (Gender Euphoria), business directory, outreach to helping professionals, plus a national outreach program for individuals referred to us.

Services: You are expected to be mature enough to exist with others in social situations, exercising good manners and good sense in protecting the security and peace of mind of all. Before attending your first soiree you must meet with a designated member. If we aren't comfortable with you, you won't be invited to attend.

WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSGENDERED SUPPORT (W.A.T.S.): Boulton & Park - W.A.T.S., P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 or, W.A.T.S., c/o Cynthia Phillips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

Nature: A women's support group devoted to the primary goal of exploring women's feelings, concerns, and attitudes about crossdressing. Affiliated with Boulton & Park.

Services: We meet 3:00 pm the 2nd Saturday of each month at the home of Cynthia Phillips. No fee.

Security: Inquire

HEART OF TEXAS TV: HTTV, Box 402, Austin, TX 78767 (512) 892-6454. Edwina Wilson, president.

Nature: A social and support group for CDs, TSs, their families and friends. Emphatically NOT a therapy group or gay dating service.

Services: Meetings the 3rd saturday of every month (dressing not required). Anyone with an interest in crossdressing is welcome to inquire. Publishes a quarterly newsletter "Cross Currents".

Security: Interested persons must complete a questionnaire and be interviewed.

COLORADO

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. (G.I.C.): Box 11563, 3715 32nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80211; 303-458-5378

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of cross-dressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community. These areas include medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behav-

iors, and other related matters. G.I.C. also provides a Speaker's Bureau and a 24-hour hotline.

DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS (Denver): Delta Chapter, c/o Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275 (temporary mailing address).

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

WYOMING
IDAHO

UTAH

ALPHA RHO, SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Provesta, Box 26711, Salt Lake City, UT 84126

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

ARIZONA

A ROSE: A Rose, Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261.

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TVs, TSs, their wives, friends, and relatives.

Services: Social activities, meetings, educational programs. Publishes 'A Rose News' monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Alpha Zeta, Box 24459, Tempe, AZ 85285-4459

Nature: A support group for heterosexual crossdressers, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, monthly meetings. Publishes "The Cactus Flower' newsletter.

Security: Before attending, and interview with a chapter officer is required.

NEW MEXICO

CD/TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: CD/TV/TS Support Group, P.O. Box 26800, Suite 314, Albuquerque, NM 87125

Nature: An unaffiliated open group offering support, acceptance, and understanding for crossdressers and their families.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Tuesday of every month (dressing not required). Anyone with an interest in crossdressing is welcome to attend.

Security: Insured via mutual discretion and respect.

FIESTA: Fiesta, De Vargas Ctr, Suite G-451, Santa Fe, NM 87501-1498

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual cross-dressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

OTRAS AMIGAS: Otras Amigas, P.O. Box 44082, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Nature: We are an open, egalitarian, non-sexual, creative group seeking to combine personal growth and fun interaction with "other friends." We wish to work together to provide innovative opportunities for living out the natural enjoyments that we share.

Services: Outreach and educational services are our goals as well as networking with the local TV/TS support group and Fiesta Tri-Ess Chapter.

Security: Amigas welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will use good judgment and common sense for the benefit of each other's well being.

NEVADA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN TRANSSEXUAL EDUCATION CENTER: A.T.E.C, 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue, Suite 584, Hollywood, CA 90028 (213) 469-4709 Amanda Silvestri, Director

Nature: A non-profit organization serving the transgender and transsexual community.

Services: Confidential and non-judgmental telephone crisis and personal counseling, referrals to support groups in your area, electrologists, medical and psychological help, speakers, and a newsletter.

Security: Open

POLAR OPPOSITES: C/o Julien, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd, Box 11, West Hollywood, CA 90069 (213) 654-0735

Nature: A non-profit self-help support group for F-M's, M-F's, TS or TV, significant others, family, or trusted friends. Serving the Los Angeles area.

Services: Meetings the 1st Sunday afternoon of every month, 4-7 p.m. A drug-free, alcohol-free, and smoke-free environment in which to meet friends and socialize.

Security: Telephone screening required.

ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: (Los Angeles area.) Alpha Chapter, c/o Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC): CHIC, Box 562, Duarte, CA 91009. Information/Speakers Bureau: 714-993-7142

Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or crossdressers only, their wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress security and good manners.

Services: We sponsor meetings, parties, monthly dinners, and seminars on make-up, wigs, clothes, and other topics of interest. We publish a monthly newsletter (CHIC Clippings) and sponsor educational programs for the public. Meetings held 2nd Saturday night of each month.

Security: Meetings are closed except to members and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members and (if a home meeting) the hostess. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the Membership Committee, and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

THE VALLEY GIRLS: The Valley Girls, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 818-762-7659

Nature: Informal non-profit support group for TVs and other cross-gendered individuals.

Services: Monthly meetings & socials, workshops, rap sessions. Publishes "Cross-Talk".

Security: Names and addresses used only for internal roster and club mailings; access only by club officers. All members are expected to honor all confidences placed in them by other members. Contact President for information about attending meetings.

FEMININE IMAGE: c/o Alicia, Box 1771, Ontario, CA 91762; 619-244-4481

Nature: TV/TS club offering support, problem solving regardless of your sexual preference or practices.

Services: Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Social activities and group outings. Novices welcome.

Security: High regard for discretion.

IOTA EPSILON ("INLAND EMPIRE"): Iota Epsilon, P.O. Box 3480, Fontana, CA 92334

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

NEUTRAL CORNER: Neutral Corner, Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112. TV/TS information line 236-1586

Nature: A self-help group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families. Its purpose is to help its members live a normal and productive life.

Services: Serving San Diego County with social and educational programs, a communication network, monthly meetings, membership consulting, wives' and families' input, a buyer's guide, and a list of helping professionals.

Security: Inquire.

OMEGA CHI TRI-ESS (Orange County, CA): Omega Chi, Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92802.

Nature: social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

POWDER PUFFS OF ORANGE COUNTY (PPOC): PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 Hotline: (714) 779-9013 weekdays 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Nature: Open non-sexual social club for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Interview by club officer.

TRI-CHI: Tri-Chi, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Social and support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Security/Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Tri-Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Tri Ess provides a cor-

respondence directory, a directory of commercial services, a magazine (the Femme Mirror), and chapters throughout the US.

Security: Membership in Tri Ess is open to heterosexual TVs only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to insure that the applicant is heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, c/o Ms. Tauria Linala, P.O. Box 6333, Santa Maria, CA 93456; 805-922-1309 (9am - 5pm PST Mon - Thurs)

Nature: GCA is a non-profit educational project established to provide services by and for the Gender Community. Open to all. Also a professional medical, psychological and legal services co-op (see 'Professional Health Services'), and utilizes its own computer bulletin board system, MiniHost of San Luis Obispo (see 'Computer Bulletin Boards').

Services: Local support group serving Central California. Information, referrals, support and peer counseling. Gender and sex information; referrals for medical and professional support, personal care, correspondence and peer-linking. International contacts. Peer counselling by telephone and/or appointment. Donations and contributions are welcome and tax-deductible.

Security: Confidential and non-judgmental.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101 Hotline: 415-763-3959 (if no answer call Telzey at 415-849-4112)

Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TVs, TSs, Significant Others, and friends. It is intended as a social and educational group, to meet and to have a good time as well as educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with over 400 members.

Services: ETVC publishes the ETVC Newsletter, and provides a full program of educational and social activities and referrals.

Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to these lists, except in the case of judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other members' express permission.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT: SOS, c/o ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Nature: Affiliated with ETVC. An educational and support organization for the "significant others" of crossdressers and transsexuals.

Services: Meetings and a newsletter.

Security: See ETVC.

GENDER IDENTITY ANONYMOUS: No mailing address available.

Nature: A non-judgmental transgender support group.

Services: Meetings every Thursday in the Science of Mind room at 3255 Balboa Street (near 34th Avenue), San Francisco.

FEMALE-TO-MALE: F_2M, 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco, CA 94117; 415-626-5824, ask for Lou.

Nature: Support group exclusively for female-to-male crossdressers, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

THURSDAY IRREGULARS: Joan Sheldon, Box 7205, San Jose', CA 75150-7205.

Nature: For nearly 7 years a group of TVs and their friends have met every Thursday for lunch. An informal discussion group and meeting of good friends. Participants come as their "male" selves.

Security: The group is very security conscious, so inquire about requirements.

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: Box 700730, San Jose', CA 95170

Nature: Formerly San Jose' Chapter, GGA. Non-profit, non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Our objective is to provide a safe and welcome place for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, transvestites, and their significant others to get together with like-minded individuals. Attendance at all RGA functions is open to all regardless of gender. We also promote the complete development of RGA members as complete men and women through emotional support and education. We reach out to all transsexuals and transvestite in an effort to help them accept and make peace with themselves. We publish a newsletter and sponsor social programs, peer support, outreach work, and public education. Visitors are welcome.

FTM FORUM: FTM Forum, P.O. Box 215354, Sacramento, CA 95821

Nature: A newsletter written by and for the female to male TS. Providing a place for fellow FTMs to share their feelings and experiences, and make new friends.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: c/o Box 13852, Sacramento, CA 95838-3582

Nature: JANUS provides a forum on the erotic arts of S/M, dominance/submission (D/S), and bondage and discipline (B/D) in a supported and unloaded atmosphere. This is where people can share practical information and ideas, feelings, health and safety information, etc. JANUS offers education to the general public about the S/M community and to the S/M community about itself. All activities must be safe, sane, and consensual.

Services: Monthly program meetings feature guest speakers and general rap sessions. Member involvement is a vital part of the success of this group.

Security: All membership lists and mailings are kept in strictest confidence.

SACRAMENTO GENDER ASSOCIATION (Blue Rose Chapter): SGA, c/o Jennifer Richards, Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841. 916-362-8131 (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. PST only. Ask for Stephanie)

Nature: SGA ia a non-sexual organization open to all TVs, TGs, TSs, Significant Others, and any other friends who will respect each person's right to self-expression. SGA ia an educational, social, and support group.

Services: Monthly 7:00 PM meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month at Joseph's Town & Country Inn, 2060 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento. There may be a guest speaker, rap session, or a general "get-acquainted" theme. SGA publishes a bi-monthly newsletter.

Security: All mailing and membership lists are kept confidential. Only certain officers have access.

HAWAII

OREGON

NORTHWEST GENDER ALLIANCE: NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual social organization serving the crossdressing community.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function a month. The days vary in order to enable all of our girls to attend as often as possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

CAPITOL CITY CHAPTER: Capitol City Chapter, P.O. Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers, transsexuals, and significant others.

Services: Support rap sessions, social events, assistance available for wig, make-up, clothing and demeanor. Monthly meetings.

Security: Individuals will be screened prior to meeting with group.

SALMACIS: The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society, Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604. Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director; Leslie-Shawn Witham, hypnotherapist; 503-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6-11 PM PST)

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of feminism, supporting all those who are or desire to become women.

Services: Direct telephone counseling, contact with others with similar interests, contact with our central organization and other organizations, and personal growth workshops. Also publish Femmes Together and The Equalitarian Feminist. The Salmacis Social Society meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 8PM at the Riv, 39 W. 10th St., Eugene, OR.

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network: Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604; Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director.

Nature: A service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle.

Services: The only femininity clinic for males and she-males that is run by a staff of professional women.

WASHINGTON

EMERALD CITY: Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103. Janice Van Cleve, Secretary

Nature: The Emerald City is a non-profit, non-sexual organization providing social and educational services for the transvestite community of Seattle and the Northwest. Promotes positive public image in the media, in the professions, and in the business community. Provides assistance and opportunities for public presentation as well as private parties and good

friendships. An independent organization, but works closely with the Ingersoll Gender Center and the Seattle Counselling Service.

Services: At least three functions each month with variety to accommodate most tastes and budgets. Constantly updated listing of acceptable vendors and contacts to a wide variety of products and services. Monthly newsletter and educational services.

Security: Must be sponsored by an active, participating member or attend the TV/TS Support Group at the Seattle Counselling Service and be accepted by an Emerald City officer. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

ALASKA

THE BERDACHE SOCIETY: c/o Kyndel Fay Mercedes, Box 113162, Anchorage, AK 99511. Nora Jean York, Co-founder

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social, educational, and referral organization serving the TV/TS community. Supports the concept that gender and sexual identity operate on separate but parallel continuum with unity of the individual and freedom of expression and growth our primary focus. (Sumus Quod Sumas)

Services: Publishes a monthly newsletter "Satin and Lace". Monthly meetings and social functions in a safe and supportive environment. Educational and personal growth programs. Wives and significant others support group. Mental health and medical referrals.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, and respectful manner. Membership is by committee after interview by chairperson or letter of referral. Anyone may receive the newsletter.

CANADA

ENTRE FEMME; QUEBEC TRANSSEXUAL ASSOCIATION INC.: Mme Viviane Belanger, 84, Boul. des Allies, Quebec, Canada G1L 1Y2 418-529-1152

Nature: French speaking transsexual support for both M-F and F-M.

Services: Monthly meetings, medical referrals, psychiatrists, psychologists, hormone therapy, and counselling service for parents of TS's.

Security: Private interview, after therapy group in the hospitals in Quebec City and Montreal.

FACT - QUEBEC: c/o Mrs. Patricia Fisher, Box 293, Cote de Neiges Post Office, 5858 Cote de Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S6

Nature: Closely affiliated with FACT - Ontario. A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: Inquire.

FACTT - OTTAWA: Box 9155, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1G 3T9.

Nature: Support group primarily for transsexuals.

Services: Meetings monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Contact FACTT president through the Ottawa Gayline (613) 238-1717. Arrange a time for a callback.

TRANSITION SUPPORT: c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2C9

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Annual membership fee ($25.00 cdn) includes monthly meetings and 12-issue sub to Trans News newsletter. Newsletter subscription alone, $15.00. Meetings held at 7:30 PM on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are open to TVs, TSs, TGs, SOs, helping professionals, and interested, caring members of the general public.

Security: None; inquire for details.

NU OMICRON PHI - TRI ESS: Nu Omicron Phi, P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, Ontario, Canada K1K 8E4

Nature: Social support for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

THE TRANSIE TIMES: T.T.T., 566 Parliament St, Toronto, ON M4X 1P8 Canada

Nature: A monthly tabloid dedicated to transvestites and their followers.

MONARCH SOCIAL CLUB: M.S.C., Box 579, Agincourt, ON M1S 3C6 CANADA

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual social organization serving TV's and TS's, their spouses, and friends.

Services: Private and public functions, a correspondence and peer linking service for members. Publishes the quarterly Monarch magazine. Sponsors the annual Mardi Gras Weekend outing the last weekend in August (Owen Sound).

Security: By member referral or filling in a club questionnaire application form. Inquiries welcome.

PHI SIGMA - TRI ESS: c/o Sara Geddis, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

CORNBURY SOCIETY: Combury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z1 CANADA

Nature: Non-sexual support group for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services/Security: Inquire for meeting times and locations, and security requirements.

GREAT BRITAIN

BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM, Box 3084, London WC1N-3XX England.

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Evening and weekend functions, counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Two bi-monthly magazines: The Beaumont Bulletin, which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, and articles on related matters; also Beaumag, which contains fictional, biographical, and autobiographical stories. Beaumont provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral service to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain, and affiliations worldwide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM W.O.B.S., Box 3084, London 2C1N-3XX England

Nature: A wives, partners and families support group for those who find the transvestite behavior difficult to understand.

Services: A confidential support service.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

THE BM PARTNERS GROUP: BM, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A support group for partners and families of transsexuals.

Services: A confidential support network by which people with similar problems can be put in touch with each other and given sympathetic help.

Security: Inquire

SEAHORSE SOCIETY: BM Seahorse, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A social organization for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Regular newsletter, social events, etc.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

BEAUMONT TRUST: BM Charity, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: Registered charity and voluntary body funded by donations.

Services: Assists those directly troubled by gender dysphoria or interested in their care. Provides referrals to appropriate organizations, professional counsellors, self-help groups, etc. Assists the gender dysphoric person and his or her family to come to terms with the problem.

Security: Inquire.

TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: The TV/TS Group, 2 French Place, Shoreditch, London ENGLAND E1 6JB (off Bateman's Row) Telephone Helpline: 071-729-1466. Hours: 8-10 PM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Nature: Support/social Group for TV's, TS's, families and friends. Registered Charity # 295376; member of the National Council of Voluntary Organizations (NCVO).

Services: Peer support for CD's, TS's, wives and partners. Publishes 'The Glad Rag' and other useful and informational publications. Meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, 7:30 p.m. to midnight, Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Comfortable lounge, refreshments, social areas, storage lockers, dressing room.

Security: Open meetings, but VERY conscious of the need for individual security. All that is asked is a name to call you by.

PARTNERS' SUPPORT GROUP (TV/TS/ SUPPORT): 081-204-4187 most days between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Nature: Special telephone helpline for WOMEN (wives, mothers, etc.)

Security: See above

THE GENDER DYSPHORIA TRUST (Formerly SHAFT): The Gender Dysphoria Trust, B.M. Box No. 7624, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A self help group for those who consider themselves to be transsexual.

Services: Bi-monthly newsletter, handbook, and other relevant material. Annual subscription. Confidential contact system for members.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

NEW TRANS ESSEX: Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS14 1PT; 0268-583761 evenings 7:00 - 10:30 PM.

Nature: TV/TS social club.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of every month at the Kavorah Manor. There is a Club newsletter ("Narcissus") and a help line.

Security: Inquire

MERSEYSIDE TV/TS GROUP: 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, England L1 4DE; 051-708-0234. D. S. Cochran, secretary.

Nature: See "Beaumont society".

THE SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP: c/o Julie Bradshaw, 53/6 Bread Street, Edinburgh EH3 9AH. Tel. 031 - 228-2231

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Publish The Tartan Skirt, a bi-monthly collection of original articles and gleanings from the media.

Security: Open meetings on the last Saturday of every month in private rooms in Edinburgh. Very conscious of the need for individual security.

GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY (Isle of Wight): GTA, c/o Miss Phaedra Kelley, Box 2, 1 Bank Buildings, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, P040 9AJ, UK of GB

Nature: A non-profit organization dedicated to helping any transgendered person in any way possible.

Services: A network of friends communicating by mail. A "Global Village" project which is a collection of groups and organizations from around the world. Designed to "cement the bond of mutual respect and affinity among us", publishing news from around the world, travel routes between countries, etc. There is a museum and library.

THE NORTHERN CONCORD: The Northern Concord (in Manchester), c/o 122 Navigation Rd, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1BE ENGLAND

Nature: A non-profit social and support group for transvestites, transsexuals, their wives and significant others. Associated with the Beaumont Society, and the TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Meetings at a Bistro in Manchester city every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 12:00. Publishes a quarterly magazine "Cross Talk".

Security: Inquire

BELFAST TV/TS GROUP: Cara, Friend, P.O. Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH IRELAND phone Belfast 322 023 on evening of meeting.

Nature: Social support group for TVs, TSs, friends, mostly tea & chat.

Services: Meetings in Belfast on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:45 - 10:00.

Security: Call first.

EUROPE

TRANS-CCL: Reverend Joseph Douce', Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorities Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 Bis, Rue Clairaut, 75017, Paris-France; Tel. (1)46.27.49.36. (Reverend Douce' speaks English.)

Nature: TRANS-CCL is a non-profit social organization for sexual minorities. It is non-political and with a Christian foundation, but is also open to people with other convictions.

Services: A help-line Mondays from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM at 1-627-4936. We have a large contact section (about 500 entries; probably the largest one in Europe) of contacts for transvestites and transsexuals. We can provide legal, psychological, pastoral, and surgical help, advisors, and literature for transsexuals. We organize meetings, meals, and other related events. We have a large documentation section on transsexuality. We can also provide all information available in Europe. We publish the book, La Question Transsexualle, exploring attitudes and procedures regarding transsexualism in the various European countries. (English translation not yet complete; French language edition currently in print; price 133.5 francs total.)

KONTAKTFORUM FEMME TRAVESTIE: 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788.

Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: M.A. Postboks 192 DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark. (Do not put F.P.E. on the envelope.)

Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France.

Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

TRANSIDENTITAS: Transidentitas, Menschen Mit Abweichender Geschlects Identitat, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach GERMANY Phone: 069 8001008

Nature: Support group for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Inquire

TV CLUB HAMBURG: Postfach 26 1426, 2000 Hamburg 26 GERMANY Phone: 040.250.13.13 (Christel Grunwald)

Nature: Inquire

Services: Inquire

F.P.E. (Northern Europe): FPE-NE, Postboks 1968 Vika, N 0125 Oslo 1 NORWAY

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Scandinavia with independent governed regions in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

Services: Monthly meetings, and twice a year weekend functions. Counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Publishes 'Feminform', an informative quarterly publication. A private library for members.

Security: Private interview with qualified member.

F.P.E. (SWEDEN): Anette Hall, Box 728, S 101 30 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Nature: See 'F.P.E. Northern Europe'.

Services: Publishes 'Feminform', the magazine for FPE-NE. Weekend meetings in Stockholm, and throughout Sweden.

Security: Private interview with qualified member.

ASIA

ELIZABETH CLUB: Tsutsui building 5F 2-8-4, Suada-Cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan.

Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.

Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, and other related items for members. The Club (through Ant Trading Co., listed below) also publishes a magazine called "Queen" every other month. This magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

ANT TRADING COMPANY: Ant Building 2F 5-32-18 Kameido, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136, Japan

Nature: Publisher of "Queen" Magazine, Japan's premier cross-dresser's reference guide. Single-copy and subscription prices unknown at press time.

AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY: The Secretary, Box 146, Ulladulla, New South Wales 2538, Australia..

Nature: The Seahorse Society is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. The Society is a member in good standing of the Association of Self-Help Organizations and Groups, 39 Darghan Street, Glebe 2037, N.S.W., Australia. Seahorse welcomes new members and overseas visitors, offering support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.

Services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, and being femme through a monthly newsletter to members. Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, and help with related matters.

Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members are screened in the same way; overseas visitors must either be screened or have accreditation from a similar (Beaumont, Tiffany, etc.) organization.

SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND: Box 628, Gympie, Queensland, Australia. Complete details of activities not yet available

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - GLEBE: c/o Bernadette Cross, Box 168, Westgate, N.S.W., 2048.

Nature: See Seahorse - Sydney, above.

Services: Likewise refer to Seahorse - Sydney.

Security: Inquire.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA: SSV, c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, Australia. Jan Baxter, President.

Nature: The largest continuously active club in Australia. A non-profit, non-sexual social/support organization for crossdressers and their families.

Services: SSV regularly publishes the Seahorse Victoria newsletter. We sponsor social activities, outings, and related events.

Security: Inquire.

CAROUSEL CLUB: c/o Linda Allen, Box 721, Couandilla, South Australia 5033

Nature: A new group dedicated to the welfare of others like ourselves.

Services: Unknown at press time.

Security: Unknown at press time.

THE ELAINE BARRIE PROJECT: EBP, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018, Australia; tele 369-2613.

Nature: A non-profit self-help group for TVs and TSs. Self-funding and self-supporting.

Services: Regular monthly social meetings and education projects throughout the year. A large reading and video sex education library with emphasis on genuine TV- and TS-related issues. Guest speakers. Publish the Nu-Scene newsletter.

Security: Almost anyone over the age of 18 (TV, TS, helping professional, families, friends, and significant others) is welcome. One factor takes precedence over all others: that the visitor or member behaves in a civilized manner and bears us no ill will.

HEDESTHIA: Hedesthia Central, Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand.

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society.

THE MINORITIES TRUST & TRANSCARE / NEW ZEALAND: c/o The Minorities Trust, Box 2983, Wellington, NZ. Telephone: Wgtn (04) 844-764; (work) 737-800 ext 8642 Miss Leone Jeanne Neil

Nature: A low profile, high powered lobby group promoting the rights of transpeople. A confidential, culturally divergent community support group helping meet the social and emotional needs of Transpeople.

Services: Personal counselling, employment opportunities, professional and medical referrals, periodical publications, and a non-threatening social environment for functions and entertainment.

Security: Call or write and enquire.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE PHOENIX SOCIETY: Box 375, Parow, 7500, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. Marlene Knoetze, President

Nature: The Phoenix Society is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization. All transpeople, whatever their race, politics, religion, colour, sexual orientation or nationality, together with those closely associated with them are welcome.

Services: Publishes Fanfare magazine, actively trying to change attitudes in South Africa. Creating support groups in all major cities. Provides contacts.

Security: New members are "sponsored" by full members. All lists are confidential.

PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

(IFGE does not guarantee the individuals and services listed.)

PEOPLE SYSTEMS POTENTIAL: Niela Miller, MS ED, LCSW (508) 264-4565

Services: Counseling for crossdressers, gender confused persons, partners, family members. Also, workshops on personal development.

DENNIS PEARNE, ED.D.: Consultations: 9 Alexander Ave, Belmont Ctr, MA 02178 Mailing: Dennis Peame, ED.D., 133 Grove St. Watertown, MA 02172 Office: (617) 484-0013

Nature: Clinical psychologist

THESEUS COUNSELING SERVICES: Ari Kane M.Ed., Box 368 Kenmore Sta., Boston, MA 02215 (617) 277-3454 F.C.C., 233 Harvard St., Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 277-4360

Nature: Gender specialist

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND: GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester, CT 06040. The Reverend Clinton R. Jones, Director; 203-646-8651.

Service: Provides screening for pre-operative TS applicants desirous of hormone therapy. Also provides screening for sex reassignment surgery approval for pre-operative TSs who have met the requirements of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care.

METAMORPHOSIS: Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY 11106, 718-728-4615.

Nature: Psychotherapy and counselling for persons with gender identity/expression related problems.

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, 914-462-7455. Roger E. Peo PhD, Director.

Nature: A private service providing counselling, research, education, and supporting services.

Services: Individual counselling is provided by Dr. Peo, a Board-certified sexologist. Counselling is primarily for the transvestite/ crossdresser and/or his significant other. Counselling is also provided for persons who are trying to determine if they are crossdressers or transsexuals. Referrals are made where appropriate. Make-up and shopping services for clients are also available. Classes, seminars, and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate-level students and other groups. Ongoing research is conducted on a variety of topics in the transgender field.

Security: Appointments for counselling can be made by phoning or writing Dr. Peo at the above address.

SEXOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.: H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Counselling for transgendered persons.

CENTER FOR GENDER REASSIGNMENT: Deborah M. Gilbert, R.N., Coordinator, 400 W. Brambleton Avenue, Suite 300, Norfolk, VA 23510. (804) 623-1090.

Nature: Intake and evaluation center for persons seeking permanent gender reassignment and SRS.

Services: A carefully prepared gender transition program which meets or exceeds all aspects of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care for transsexually inclined persons.

Security: Applicants to this program are subjected to a thorough screening by a highly qualified staff of medical and gender professionals. An 18-month period of successful cross-living and a minimum of six months' hormone therapy is required prior to consideration for surgery.

CENTRAL IOWA GENDER INSTITUTE: C.I.G.I., Susan McIntyre, MSW ACSW, P.O. Box 12006, Des Moines, IA 50412 (515) 277-7754

Nature: C.I.G.I. offers professional and confidential counseling and supportive services to CD's, TS's, AN's, and others with gender related issues. Emphasizes fulfillment of each individual's potential.

Services: Individual and couple counseling, family therapy, educational services, referrals, resource listings/tapes, rap groups, grooming help, makeup tips. Advocacy and other gender related services available as necessary or requested.

Security: Emphasizes confidentiality, and respect.

MILWAUKEE TRANSGENDER PROGRAM: Milwaukee Transgender Program, Pathways Counseling Center, 6815 West Capitol Dr., Suite 310, Milwaukee, WI 53216 414-466-6040 Gretchen M. Fincke, MSSW, Dir.

Nature: A therapy program for M-F and F-M transsexuals.

Services: A complete program of emotional support, evaluation and re-assignment hormone therapies and sexual re-assignment surgeries.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY: University of Minnesota, Research East Building, 2630 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. Call (612) 376-7520 to schedule an intake session.

Nature: A professionally managed gender program based on the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Standards of Care. Administered by the University's Department of Family Practice and Community Health.

Services: Presently treats about 250 gender dysphoric clients. The program provides intake screening, diagnosis, alternative options and pre-surgery issues counselling, family and children's services, physical health care, and related assistance in a fully professional environment. The Program offers support and psychological services for families and children of gender dysphoric people as well.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM FOR TRANSSEXUALS: Alice Webb, MSW, CSW-ACP, 1917 Broadway, Suite 2, Galveston, TX 77550

Nature: Psychotherapy (individual & couple for both TS & TV), group meetings (not necessary to be in treatment to attend), referrals for hormones (must be in treatment), electrolysis, speech, legal services and SRS. Strict adherence to Harry Benjamin Standards.

Services: Group meetings are held 1st Saturday of each month, 8:00

pm. No fee. Long distance calls returned collect. No night calls. Primarily for persons self identifying as transsexuals.

Security: Must meet Ms Webb.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: Tomye Kelley, MA, 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO 80004 (303) 420-9885.

Nature: Practice limited to work with crossdressers, the gender conflicted, and their significant others.

Services: Private one-on-one psychotherapy, weekly support groups, process groups for those in or preparing for transition. Also a professional Speaker's Forum.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE: Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84132; 801-581-7951. Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD.

Services: Details not available at this time.

ROXANNE CHERRY, M.A.: Roxanne Cherry, M.A., 937 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite F, Claremont, CA 91711 (213) 202-1820 (714) 624-6539

Nature: Licensed marriage family child therapist

Services: Individual, couple, group psychotherapy, gender dysphoria, sexual orientation issues.

THE PRINCE INSTITUTE: The Prince Institute, P.O. Box 2916, Palm Springs, CA 92263 Angela Prince, Ph.D. Director

Nature: A private transgender awareness center offering counselling, education, and support services.

Services: Individual and/or group counselling primarily for the crossdresser/transvestite and/or his significant other. Trans-gender, human sexuality, and personal development classes, seminars, and workshops are also available. Services may be conducted through office visits, by telephone, or correspondence.

Security: Total confidentiality.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: 32158 Camino Capistrano, Suite 203, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 714-240-7020 Wm. G. Heard, Ph.D. Director

Nature: A comprehensive program for gender dysphoric persons. Our program is one of many options available. It is a composite of evaluative and treatment techniques developed over the years by the more successful programs, which permit extensive screening and interaction of the patient at minimum cost, integrating the patient into the mainstream of society.

Services: Our program is structured to permit the patient to explore alternatives to sex reassignment while providing an effective support mechanism during transition. Our program is a 4-block procedure consisting of intake, transition/support, surgery approval/disapproval, and follow-up.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, Ms Tauna Linala, P.O. Box 6333, Santa Maria, CA 93454 (805) 922-1309...voice (805) 549-0961...data

Nature: Professional medical, psychological, and legal services co-op. A full service gender program.

Services: Crisis intervention, peer counseling, intake, psychological therapy, referrals for hormones, socialization, and referrals for all medical procedures based on the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.

GENDER & SELF ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM: Gender & Self Acceptance Program, P.O. Box 4447, San Francisco, CA 94101 (415) 558-8058 Joni E. Israel, Director

Nature: A private personal growth consultation program providing individual, couple, and small group sessions focusing on gender, self & social acceptance, whole-self integration, coming-out, crossdressing, HIV concerns, and ACA/Co-dependency issues.

Services: Short & long-term consultation, small group support and quarterly weekend workshops focusing on gender & acceptance/integration issues. Sliding scale. Serving TS's, TV's, and other minorities. Provide professional consultation & training.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: 191 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 554-0518

Nature: We are an innovative and non-traditional mental health program. We are a project of Central City Hospitality House.

Services: Training in peer counselling, support group facilitation, job training. We offer peer counselling, TV/TS support groups, A.A., shelter referrals and emergency medical care referrals, and other basic survival needs. We serve the 'Tenderloin' and 'South Of Market' communities of San Francisco.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION: HBIGDA, 900 Welch Road #402, Stanford, CA 94304.

Nature: A non-profit professional group with special interest in gender dysphoria syndrome.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH: Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701; 415-548-8283. Hot Line: 415-841-6224. Allyana Guenther, Executive Director.

Nature: A private, non-profit agency funded by the United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minorities of all ages, races, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach to the community at large. Speaker's Bureau, counseling, and group meetings.

ANNE VITALE, Ph.D.: Anne Vitale, Ph.D., D Street Counseling Group, 610 D St., San Rafael, CA 94901 (415) 456-4452

Nature: Psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues.

Services: In private practice, but associated with other Bay Area gender professionals, and can provide complete pre- and post-op psychotherapy, and recommendation for hormonal therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery when applicable.

ROBIN J. AUGE, Ph.D: Robin J. Auge, Ph.D, 1036 W. Robinhood Dr., Suite 206, Stockton, CA 95207 (209) 474-3256

Nature: Clinical psychologist treading individuals and couples working on gender issues; consultations, and psychological evaluations.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: Box 3224, Honolulu, HI 96801-3224; 808-926-1000.

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TSs.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: 1812 East Madison, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-6651 Marcia Botzer, Executive Director

Nature: Ingersoll Gender Center is a non-profit counselling and referral service serving the transsexual community throughout the Northwest. It is managed by a professional board and has 8 experienced, licensed therapists with advanced degrees on contract. Ingersoll works closely with the Emerald City and Seattle Counseling Service.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentation. Weekly support meetings, public information presentations, research, and informational materials upon request.

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE: 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122; 206-329-8707 noon to 9 pm weekdays Michael Auch, Executive Director

Nature: Seattle Counseling Service is the oldest counseling service for sexual minorities in the U.S. A United Way agency, SCS receives grants from state and local sources to provide counseling and therapy for the full range of problems related to sexual issues.

Services: SCS provides a weekly support group for TVs, TSs, significant others, in-betweens, and I-don't-knows every Friday from 8 to 10 pm. Facilities for dressing on-site. Also provides crisis line.

GENDER CONSULTANTS: Rupert & Michelle Raj-Gauthier, P.O., Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1G7, Canada ; 416-769-7170.

Nature: A professional registered service serving a transgender clientele. Clients include both those suffering from gender dysphoria and persons who have resolved their gender issues, but require assistance with related matters.

Services: Information, referrals, counseling, group raps, intermediation between clients and significant others, presentations, seminars, workshops, peer-linking, media outreach, resume' assistance, leadership training, and networking. Services may be conducted through office visits or correspondence.

GENDERSERVE: Box 291 Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8. Susan C. Huxford, Director.

Nature: Counselling, education, and research services. Registered in Ontario as a proprietorship. Operating as a non-profit organization serving TVs, TSs, and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexual people, wives, friends, and relatives. Services for a nominal fee to cover expenses. Inquiries by mail or phone. No collect calls.

Services: Counselling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counselling if requested. Referrals. Initial counselling session (mail or phone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/television and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counselling and therapy by request.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Dr. Betty Steiner, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R8.

Nature: Accepts referrals through the patient's General Practitioner only.

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County, NJ; 609-693-8849. 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: Log on using the name APRIL MAY with the password of FRIENDS (all caps). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. After you have logged on as above you may register the name of your choice for future access.

GENDERLINE:

Nature: BBS (Compuserve Information Service).

Services: Nodes nationwide. Admission by subscription to Compuserve and by permission by System Operator HSX forum B (GO HSX 200 at any prompt). Discrete, support community for both TVs and TSs. Consists of closed forum, conference area, and extensive data library of factual information and archived discussions of topics of concern.

PASSING FANCY: Alexandria, VA 703-765-6290; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. Both a public and a private section. The private section is available for subscribers only. Answer the "SYSTEM ID" prompt with "FANCY" to gain access to the public section.

TV/TS GENDER FORUM: Grand Rapids, MI: 616-676-2429; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. The Gender Forum is a closed forum accessible exclusively by members of the gender community, and professionals that work with us.

Services: The Gender Forum also has a 'Companion Support Forum' exclusively for significant others, spouses, and partners.

CAROLYN'S CLOSET: Minneapolis, MN; 612-452-2676; 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board: Totally free. A very nice, user-friendly board with some very nice user-written fiction and stories.

US TOO: Chicago, IL: 312-486-3125; 300/1200/2400 baud 8N1

Nature: Non-profit transsexual support Bulletin Board Service affiliated with the Sunday Society.

Services: Very user friendly BBS with four sub-boards (M-F TS, F-M TS, TV, general).

CROSS LINK: Denver, CO. 1 (303) 665-3746. 300/1200 baud, 8 bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service

Services: When you log on you will see, "You have reached M&D's Travelling Circuits BBS Where YOU Are the Main Attraction!" Name? Last Name? Follow instructions, answer questions. Enter the name "CROSS-LINK".

MINI HOST: San Luis Obispo, CA: (805) 549-0961. 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1 standard modem parameters.

Nature: BBS affiliated with Gender Community Advocates

Services: Accessible 24 hours a day. Currently mostly local user oriented, but will soon be expanding services. (Watch for announcements.)

COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND SERVICES

GENDER EXPRESSIONS: Electronic Media ARTS, P.O. Box 150, Concord, NH 03302-0150

Nature: Commercial non-sexual TV/TS publication oriented towards the informational needs of the gender dysphoric community.

EN FEMME MAGAZINE: En Femme Magazine, 1977 N. Olden Ave, Suite 205, Trenton, NJ 08618

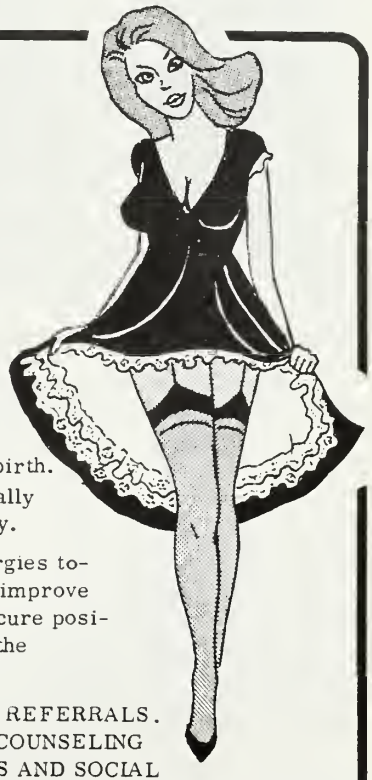
Nature: Non-sexual magazine dealing with all aspects of the transvestite, transsexual, and female impersonator in a tasteful, dignified manner.

Services: Articles, interviews, stories, artwork, photos, classifieds.

CREATIVE DESIGN SERVICES: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 215-

Fem Fashions

Who is She?



Who is the girl in the Fem-Fashions logo? It could be you! Do you have a fantasy to dress in "silks 'n satins 'n buttons 'n bows?" Muriel can help you fulfill your fantasies and make them a reality.

WHO IS MURIEL? She's a warm, caring GG (Genetic Girl), a pioneer in her field, with twelve years experience in counseling and image consulting for crossdressers. She believes that both male and female traits and hormones are inherent in all men and women in varying degrees, through birth. To the more sensitive and intelligent of us, especially cross dressers, this poses a problem in our society.

Learn how to accept yourself and channel your energies towards becoming a whole, complete entity; learn to improve your positions in private life and occupy a more secure position in society. Become a whole person and enjoy the "Best of Both Worlds!"

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640-9449.

Nature: A commercial concern marketing a line of products and services for the TV/TS Community.

Services: Publish "Art and Illusion: a Guide to Crossdressing" and "LadyLike Magazine", sponsors "Paradise in the Poconos" weekends in May and September.

Security: None.

CHANGING MEN: Editorial Office & Subscriptions, 306 N. Brooks St, Madison, WI 53715

Nature: An international magazine dealing with the issues of gender, sex, and politics.

SCD PUBLISHING: c/o Nancy Lawson, Box 6322, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Nature: TV/TS publishing house.

Services: Publishes TV/TS Talk bi-monthly for members and supporters of the TV/TS Community. TV/TS Talk is modeled after the Penthouse Forum, but deals exclusively with gender related issues. $3.50 per issue; $21.00 per year.

THE AMERICAN CROSSDRESSER: Chevalier Publications, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: A magazine for crossdressers designed to replace 'Transvestia'.

TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON: Distribution Director: Ms Patricia Fisher, P.O. Box 293 Cote des Neiges P.O. 5858 Cote des Neiges Blvd, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S5

Nature: A newsletter for and about the transsexual inmate.

LIBRARY and INFORMATION SERVICES

GENDER INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 9238, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747-9238.

Nature: Information and referral service.

Services: Books and pamphlets for sale. Referral service (fee required).

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS): SIECUS, 130 W. 42nd St; Suite 2500, New York, New York 10036 (212) 573-3850

Nature: SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and the Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexual issues, including gender expression.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184

Nature: J2CP provides information and referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and the JANUS Information Facility.

Services: J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, TVism, and TSism. This info package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing, secretarial, and postage services. J2CP also provides referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, gender programs, and peer groups near your home. Certified checks and money orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are M-F TS, F-M TS, or TV. If TS, please provide your place of birth.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: SFBAGLHS, Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Nature: Reference library for lesbian, gay, and transgendered persons.

Services: Large periodical collection of Bay Area and California titles preserved for research.

TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE: TGA, c/o Dr. Richard Ekins, Ulster University, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry BT48 7JL, Northern Ireland.

Nature: A non-profit academic research and study facility.

Services: Seeking both group and personal deposits related to every kind of Transgender regardless of sexuality or self designation of gender identity: TV/TS/TG/GT/CD, Gender Bender/Blender, Drag (all kinds), Newspaper cuttings, magazines, group journals, photos, sound and video tapes, records, artifacts of history and living history. Publishes "Archive News" a newsletter and news agency with three purposes: (1) To provide news for transgender groups and publications, (2) To inform the transgender community of the progress of the Archive, and (3) To help the Archive improve its deposits.

Security: One hundred percent, closed deposits accepted as noted by the depositor. Access to research material by direct application to Dr. Ekins, granted subject to his decision. Access to deposits is only granted on permission by the original depositor and Dr. Ekins after a full security consultation.

RESEARCH

TEENAGE CROSSDRESSING RESEARCH PROJECT: Sheila Kirk, c/o P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Nature: Long-term research project being conducted by a physician, a Boarded Specialist in OB-Gyn, with a research background.

Security: Parental approval required. The security of each teenager and his parents is a paramount consideration.

PROJECT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GENDER EDUCATION: Michael Persinger, Dept. of Psych., Wayne State U., Detroit, MI 48282

Nature: A research project attempting to increase scientific knowledge of the CD Community. Special emphasis in the area of individual personality and how it relates to certain attitudes and behaviors. CD is treated as an alternative lifestyle. Working closely with Crossroads of Michigan.

Services: Confidential questionnaires available for all who wish to participate.

Security: Questionnaire strictly confidential, for research purposes only.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT: Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328 Dr. Richard F. Docter, PhD, Director, Department of Psychology, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330; 818-885-2828.

Nature: Individual and marital counselling for TVs, TS, and their significant others; research on gender issues.

Services: Counselling and research on gender issues. (Dr. Richard Doctor's new book, Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior is now available from I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. $29.50 plus $2.50 shipping and handling.)

PERSONAL LISTINGS

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communications for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communications.
3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the people who are members and supporters of the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

To place a personal listing you must be an up-to-date General Subscriber (or IFGE Supporting Member). (Please see the subscription form at the back of the Personal Listings.) As a subscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Also, your mail will be forwarded at no cost to you.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.
2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:
   (A) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.
   (B) Pencil in the name, state prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)
   (C) Include $1.00 (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.
   (D) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope, and mail to: TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778

MASSACHUSETTS (010- 027-)

AUDREY M (E MA) (#54)
Member: TCNE
MWM bi-TV, 53, 155, 5'10", nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6.
Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134

Chris Robins MA-1354

CHRIS ROBINS (E MA) (#54)
Member: TCNE
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Single TV, Bi-, 44, passes easily. Goes out frequently. Interested in psychological aspects of cross-dressing, androgyny, and feminism. Loves to dance.
Chris Robins (MA-1354)

CYNTHIA CRANE (SE MA) (#53)
MWM hetero crossdresser, 40, 6', sensitive and discrete. Interests: Computers, telecommunications, video tape, music, TV fantasies & bondage, tight clothing, correspondence with others of like interests. "I love being dressed in nylon, satin, and leather. I would like to exchange books, fantasies, and thoughts about enforced crossdressing."
Cynthia Crane (MA-0843)

SUSAN A. (SE MA) (#56)
MWM TV, 30's, 5'7", 140, considered passable. Interests: Collecting and wearing all kinds of lingerie, TV literature. Interested in exchanging letters and photos with others similarly inclined.
Susan A. (MA-0064)

VALERIE PAULSEN (E MA) (#55)
Member: TCNE
Awards: FF Ms Cinderella '85
DWM, 44, 5'11", 140. I live full-time as a male woman. At work, where all 350 employees know

I'm male, I wear high-heels and dresses, and use the men's room with the other guys. It's been a year, and I haven't had one complaint. I'm looking for a digital design genius-artist for possible collaboration on revolutionary laser show system. Definite plus if you are tall, slender, gorgeous fem. Any sex okay.

Valerie Paulsen, P.O. Box 259, Watertown, MA 02172

Valerie V. MA-0273

VALERIE VINCENT (E MA) (#55)

Member: TCNE

5' 10", 150, 147, blue eyes, attractive. (Centerfold Transvestian Vol 4 #10). Interested in meeting understanding woman on a social basis for talks, shopping, lunch, fun and friendship... a woman who will help bring Valerie out of the closet. Also interested in corresponding with all who wish to write and exchange pictures.

Occupant, Box 8341, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114

Margarita R. MA-1815

MARGARITA AMANDA R. (E MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Participant: Coming Together, Be-All, Texas 'T' Party

SWM, 5'11", young looking and thinking, run-off-at-the-mouth conversationalist, yet a good listener. Interested in everything, especially geography, history, science, photography, classical music, camping, hiking, cooking, gardening, canning, dancing, softball, pretty and lacy feminine attire, and PEOPLE. Non-smoker for one year ! Live alone on North Shore of MA. PLEASE WRITE! All will be answered.

Margarita R. (MA-1815)

CHRISTINE POKORSKY (MA) (#53)

Member: TCNE

Do not get opportunity to go out often dressed. Would like to correspond with other TVs and understanding GGs.

Christine P. (MA-1972)

Holly C. MA-0379

HOLLY CROSS (MA) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors, IFGE Staff

Member: TCNE

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, IFGE Convention, Shangri-La, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing

SWM TV, mid-60's. Lives alone except for a lot of VHF ham gear and about 200 size 20 outfits. Is fairly active, goes to many concerts dressed, and has been to over 15 outings. Looks like a proper Boston lady, and is having a 'hell' of a good time. "I try to answer all the interesting letters, but no guarantee."

Holly C., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

LILA WALTON (W. MA) (#54)

Naturally inclined this way I do pass well and enjoy being accepted. Interests: Contemporary theater, acting, poetry and poetry readings, folk music, Irish songs and ballads. "I love to be out among people in nice places, when I can do this. I like to talk a lot, and I listen."

L. Walton, 55 Commons Drive #36, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

SUE FANON (W MA) (#56)

SWM TV, 34, 5'10", 160, brown eyes & hair, easy going, clean, understanding, loving & sincere. Interests: Dressing up & being feminine, travel, music, & friendships. "I am a novice TV who enjoys being feminine and would like to enjoy sincere friendships with other TV's and TS's. I would like to correspond or meet a pre- or post-op transsexual."

Sue F. (MA-0983)

Gloria R. MA-1858

GLORIA ROTHSCHILD (MA) (#53)

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Awards: Ms Cinderella '89

Single TV, 36, 5'9", 150, brunette, caring, adjusted, fun-loving. Into personal growth, psychology, world affairs, hi-tech, music/arts, massage, and nature. Love the slopes, the beach, shopping, dancing, girl talk, feeling feminine. Hope to go out more, relate to others as a woman, and pass more naturally. Wish to meet sincere, articulate, emotionally secure TV's, TS's, genetic females, and couples for friendship, conversation, support, outings. Send photo & phone # (if possible). Sorry, I'm not a great correspondent, but will try.

Gloria Rothschild, Box 931, Cambridge, MA 02140

LISA (MA) (#54)

MWM, 33, 5'8". Lisa is willing to help others become happy too. "I have just started to realize that to be truly happy, I must accept that one is what one is. Would like to meet others at this stage of 'becoming'."

Lisa C. (MA-1956)

Christina S. MA-0649

CHRISTINA SMITH (MA) (#54)

Member: TCNE

5'11", 175, brown hair & eyes. Enjoys all feminine things, especially makeup, wigs, and high fashion clothing. "I love the process of transforming myself to look like a woman. Since I rarely go out in public I tend to create a fantasy look... heavy makeup and sexy wigs. Would love to meet others who can teach me more about wig styling and makeup techniques. Will answer all who write with photo.

Christy Smith (MA-0649)

SUSAN ELIZABETH R. (MA) (#53)

SWM TV, 53, 6' 180, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interests: Photography, treasure hunting, 40's and 50's music, dogs, nature, and being a lady. "I would like to correspond with other girls in E. MAss., especially Metro-West area."

Susan Elizabeth R. (MA-0839)

SHARON McGRATH (MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany outings

WM, 34, 5'6", 140, TV-TS. "I enjoy everything feminine; love going out dressed for shopping and travel. Would like to meet and correspond with others her age with same interests."

Ms. Sharon McGrath (MA-0504)

CRYSTAL RAYMOND (SE MA) (#53)

I would like to meet or correspond with other TVs/TSs in SE MA/Cape Cod area and desire to establish a cooperative home for sisters in our area. Fun-loving, caring individual, discreet, enjoys photography and writing (TV fantasies a specialty)

Crystal Raymond (MA-1923)

LAUREN D. (MA) (54)

5'10", 185, 30, married, hetero, monogamous CD with supportive wife. Enjoy most sports, camping,

crossdressing, and improving my image. My wife and I wish to correspond and possibly meet with other CD couples in the North Shore area for friendship, understanding, and helping. Will answer all.

Lauren D. (MA-2047)

CHARLENE MANN (MA) (#54)

Member: TCNE

Friendly, outgoing human service professional (MR/Prader-Willi) and software developer (blind/sight-impaired), living and working fulltime in my chosen gender role. Compulsively constructive, with a generally accurate "feel" for what works and a good (tho' sometimes warped) sense of humor. Enjoy writing, bicycling, cooking, sewing, and time with friends. Would like to meet or correspond with other TSs (both directions) working in human services, both MH and MR. (I'm a slow but sure respondent.)

Charlene Mann, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

Kathy M. MA-2038

KATHY MASTERS (C MA) (54)

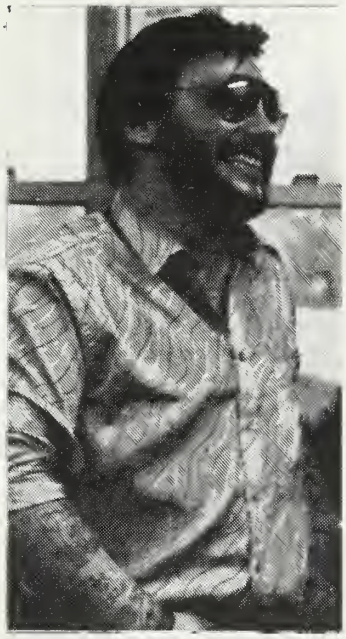
Late 30's, 70", para-medical (loves to help people). Loves balance between masculine and feminine lifestyle. Honest, secure and has perfect shoulders to cry on. Expert in shopping London TV shops. Corsets, maids costumes, elegant dresses are my passion. Seeks communication, meetings, and help from all.

Kathy M. (MA-2038)

DIANA JOYCE HOLMWOOD (E MA) (#53)

Was "cover girl" in 'Transvestia' many years back. Was very active when I lived in Buffalo, NY area. I'm 63, 5'8", 175, size 16, pierced ears, have taken hormones, have been a TV for 55 yrs, and I love it!! I have been so busy making a living that I have neglected my feminine self and I want to change that.

Diana Joyce H. (MA-1999)



Les N. MA-2124

LES N. (E MA) (#54)

Post-op F-M, 30's. Looking for correspondence to make lasting friendships with other F-M TSs, and with GGs.

Les N., P.O. Box 123, Wakefield, MA 01880

Arlene L. MA-1648

ARLENE SUSAN L. (E MA) (#55)

MWM hetero closet TV, 47, 5'10", 205. I love dressing completely as a woman. Especially love nylons, heels, and lingerie. Am cautiously just venturing into the beautiful world of femininity, after many years in the deep closet. I love my femininity and wish to pursue all aspects of being a woman.

Arlene L. (MA-1648)

ERIN ANNE O. (E. MA) (#54)

SWM TV, 23, 5'9", 165. Loves alternative music, friends, and all aspects of femininity, especially dressing. Would like to correspond with other TV/TS's. Send photos if possible. Discretion assured & required. Need help dressing.

Erin O. (MA-2094)

DONNA C. (W MA) (#54)

MWM hetero, 5'11", 180, 26. Crossdresser since teenager. I like feeling feminine. never been out, but would like to. Not sure about passing. Not good with makeup. Like to find a club in my area. Will respond ASAP.

D. Coan, P.O. Box 392, Granby, CT 06035

Diana D. MA-2146

DIANA S. DWYER (W MA) (#54)

Hetero single, caring TV, 5'11", 175, 24. Passable, attractive, and I love to correspond. Out of the closet, and happy about it. I'm interested in hearing from all my new sisters. I'd also like to hear from any understanding "real" women. Interests: All sports, photography, video, making new friends, and sharing experiences. Write soon.

Diana Dwyer, P.O. Box 4104, Pittsfield, MA 01201

LISA COPPER (E MA) (#54)

SWM, 29, 5'10", 22. Like to dress at home. Looking for a woman that can understand and to help me dress and look my best. Also like to meet TV/TS for friends.

Lisa Copper, P.O. Box 415, Wakefield, MA 01880

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (E MA) (#54)

Member: TCNE

MWM, 39, 5'11", 130. Crossdressing since childhood, transsexual inclinations. Interests: Music (rock to classical), songwriting, cooking, running. I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun.

Heather A. (MA-0661)

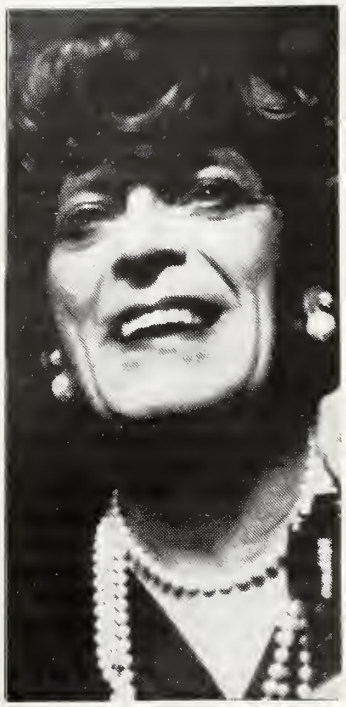
Robyn G. MA-2208

ROBYN GOLDSTEIN (E MA) (#54)

Member: TCNE

MWM hetero TV, 40, 5'7", 160. Extremely supportive wife. 3 kids. My wife and I, as a couple, would like to correspond with other couples wrestling with the sexual and emotional implications of CD. Have never been out, but looking forward to it eventually.

Robyn Goldstein, P.O. Box 6211, Boston, MA 02114



Jennifer E. MA-2249

JENNIFER EDWARDS (SE MA) (#55)

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E

MWM, 60's, crossdresser for 50 years. Loves meeting with other CD's. Seek friends in Cape Cod area. Wife

merely tolerant. Jennifer does housework, writes professionally, enjoys photography, sailing. Will reply to all.

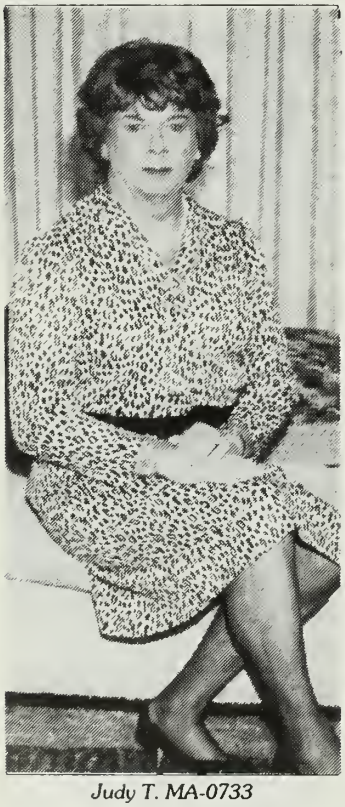
Jennifer E. (MA-2249)

LANA VAN HAIGHT (SE MA) (#53)

Pre-op TS, 5'6", 44, 120, brown eyes, long auburn hair, soft smile, considered attractive. Have cross-lived for 4 years, and loving ever second. Soft spoken, loner and lonely, shy, live alone. Believer in unicorns, and that somewhere out there someone is thinking of me. Romantic, sentimental, relationship oriented (long term). Realistic, old fashioned, loyal, kind.

Interested in yard sales, flea markets, weekend get-aways, dancing, and helping people. I really want to meet someone who will love me for myself.

Lana Van Haight, P.O. Box 2903, Montello Sta., Brockton, MA 02403-3551



Judy T. MA-0733

JUDITH ANNE THOMPSON (E MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Widowed WM CD, 68, 5'9", 175, retired, good listener, hones and intelligent. Passes well. Likes photography, sailing, hiking, gardening, good music, living as "Judy" and helping others of our community. Would like contact and correspondence with CD's in SE MA. area for companionship and like interests.

Judith T. (MA-0733)

BOBBIE DAVIES (W MA) (#54)

MWM TV. Want to correspond with other TV's. I love being feminine, love being a woman. Wife accepts me as is. Write to me, I'll answer all. Let's be sisters.

Bobbie D. (MA-2238)

DOROTHY T. (E MA) (#55)

WM TV, 50+, intelligent, articulate, discreet. Seeks that special relationship, can't find the closet door at this point, adores pretty lingerie, velvet gowns, and wedding attire. Would love to exchange letters and share fantasies with others.

Dorothy T. (MA-2261)

Carolyn N. MA-1829

CAROLYN NELSON (E MA) (#56)

Member: ETVC, Renaissance

Participant: Pocono W/E

TV, 170, tall, but passes well. Likes very much to go out. Married; wife not supportive. Interests: Passing, making lasting friendships with other TV's. New to Mass.

Carolyn N. (MA-1829)

ELLIE K. (MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

DWM, 5'6", 55, quiet and lives alone. Pleasant personality. Interested in model railroading, country music, and crossdressing. Enjoys meeting people, and long rides & walks. "I'm new to crossdressing, and really can use all the help I can get. Would love to meet and correspond with others of same interests."

Ellie K. (MA-1076)

MICHELLE LANGE (E MA) (#57)

MWM, 40, 6', brown hair and hazel eyes. Interests include current events, sports, chess, household duties, and everything feminine. Intelligent, imaginative, and daring person seeking a friendship with nice, caring, sincere person. "I am an avid collector of TV, domination, and discipline stories, and would like to share them with a similar type person."

Boxholder, Box 1065, Burlington, MA 01803

MARCIA JOHNSON ((E MA) (#55)

Member: TCNE

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing

5'9", 140, 42, shoulder length blonde hair. Attractive in-between would like to hear from other in-betweens who enjoy shopping, dining & dancing & weekend getaways.

Marcia J. (MA-0666)

DIANA E. MARSHALL (W MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

SWM TV, never married, 42, 5'6", 125, size 7/8, loves all things feminine: long nails, heels, perfume, lingerie, makeup, and long hair. Interests: Music and stereo equipment, acrylic and oil painting. "Would like to spend all my time as a girl. Would like to meet new friends and attend Tiffany functions."

Diana M. (MA-0886)

PAMELA L. (E MA) (#55)

SWM, 37, 5'11", 145, possibly passable in the dark. Interested in chess, computers, photography, reading and occasional crossdressing.

Pamela L. (MA-2376)

JOANNA EDLONS (W MA) (#56)

DWM, 57, 5'10", 175. Interests: Fishing, outdoor walks, crossword puzzles, quiet times. "Live alone so I dress at home nearly every day. Go out en femme only at night since I'm not sure of openly passing, and apartment security makes easy in and out difficult. Need CD my age group in Central Mass. to exchange support and friendship. We can help each other.

Joanna E. (MA-1873)

Janice H. MA-0254

JANICE H. (E MA) (#55)

Member: TCNE, Tri-Ess, TV Entertainers NY

Participant: Fantasia Fair

Divorced WM, 64, 5'6", 155, blue eyes, brown hair. Goes out as Janice shopping, eating at restaurants, visiting other TV's. Makes friends, but is on the quiet side, write to many other TV's. Will answer all letters. Would like to take hormones and live full time as a woman.

Janice H. (MA-0254)

DIANE (E MA) (#56)

Married TV. Learning all I can about life. "I need to communicate with people who understand. Will someone please help? And show me courage?"

Diane (MA-1776)

Rhonda S. MA-0317

RHONDA SMITH (E MA) (#56)

Participant: Holiday En Femme, TCNE P-Town Outing

Awards: TCNE Service Award

TV/TS, 5'6", 130 pounds of exotic blue-eyed blonde temptress. Interests: Showbiz, FI night-clubbing, Wagnerian Ring Cycle classical music, lasers, sciences, cooking, camping. "Traveled Honolulu to Hollywood. Done Dallas, tasted the forbidden fruit and it is luscious, or as Mae West said, "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful."

Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

EVE B. (E MA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

Widower, age 70, retired. Interests: Dressing privately at home with invited guests. "Good friend of Ariadne Kane, and have had Virginia Prince as visitor in my home some years ago. Arthritis has limited me considerably in the past 2 years."

Eve B. (MA-0508)

SYLVIA MARCI D. (W MA) (#56)

Older MWM TV, 5'6", 170. Interested in fetish items for many years; newly into full TV closet activity and would like to share thoughts on this

area. Would be happy to swap or share collections of self video on high heels and/or fashion belts. Also have interest in area of forced cross-dressing and bondage.

Sylvia D. (MA-2430)

HOLLY D. (E MA) (#56)

Married, 41, 6'2", 200, lifelong TV. Avid reader and soon to be published writer of TV fantasies. Would really like to express my femininity more but need encouragement of others who have been there. Eventual goal to meet other TV's and join a TV group. would love to correspond with others willing to share a little bit of themselves.

Holly D. (MA-2442)

Shelley A. MA-2463

SHELLEY ANDERSON (W MA) (#56)

Member: TGIC

Participant: 'Be All'

5'10", 36, 150, size 12. Interests: fashion, cooking, baseball (as a spectator) & letting my feminine self blossom - slow but sure. Also enjoy lingerie, soft quiet talk, & relaxing with like minded people (male or female). TV with strong TS desires. Would like to meet TV's, TS's, and understanding females. Very fem on the inside, working on the outside. travel to Albany often and Worcester area. Phone & photo would be appreciated. Let's get together! Out of the closet, and loving every moment!

Shelly Anderson, P.O. Box 4583, Springfield, MA 01101 (MA-2463)

TINA SANDRAH (W MA) (#55)

Member: CT Outreach Society

TG/TS, 5'10", 150, 28, with understanding girlfriend. Blue eyes, size 11/12. Enjoys photography, theatre, electronics, music, ham radio. Loves to correspond with others. Always looking for new friends. Girlfriend would also like to correspond with other SO's.

Boxholder, P.O. Box 6127, Holyoke, MA 01040 (MA-2465)

BOBBIE M. (E MA) (#56)

DWM, 5'5", 165, 35. Enjoys sports, soft rock, cooking, fishing, and nature in general. Also enjoys intelligent, caring, and understanding people. "Still very much in the closet. Been CDing since a young age, but just beginning to explore my CD tendencies more fully. I enjoy lingerie and stylish, not garish, soft feminine clothing. Even I'm amazed at how nice my legs look in nylons, heels, and skirt. Looking to meet understanding women and couples to help me.

Bobbie M. (MA-2478)

RHODE ISLAND (027- 029-)

Andrea K. RI-1771

ANDREA K. (RI) (#56)

5'10", 155, brown eyes, long brown hair, semi-androgynized. Interests: Sci-fi, investing, metaphysics, dressing up full time like a woman, movies, video. "I am willing to meet other TV/CD/TS's and talk about things like lingerie, high heels, hosiery, makeup, and becoming a full time woman, to be known as a woman, and treated as one."

Andrea K. (RI-1771)

JANINE BRIDGET D. (RI) (#56)

5'9", 140, 30's, auburn hair, blue eyes. Enjoys commuters, photography, needle point, gourmet cooking. Interested in meeting individuals who can help me advance in achieving greater understanding of my feminine self.

Jan, P.O. Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816 (RI-0331)

CHARLY OLSON (RI) (#54)

Member: LIFE

6', 175, 39, size 16, living with understanding girlfriend. Likes fishing, boating, corresponding, photo exchanging, and dressing as much as possible. Need some pointers, and will give what I can. Would like to meet some local TV's or TS's, and discuss our "hobby". Would love to hear from all and will answer promptly.

Charly Olson, P.O. Box 1140, Coventry, RI 02816

Janine Bridget D. RI-0331

Charly O. RI-2157

Gwendolyn S. RI-2207

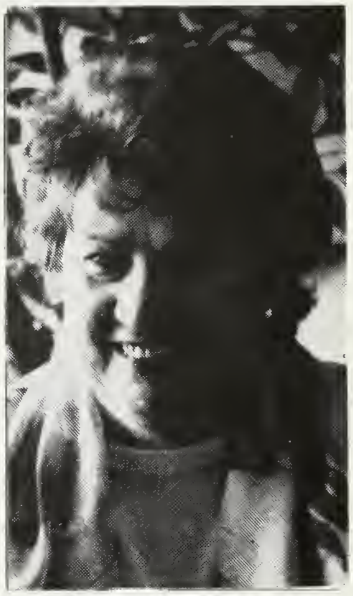
GWENDOLYN ALYNNA SPENCER (RI) (#55)

Participant: 'Coming Together'

5'9", brown hair, blue eyes, volunteer at IFGE office. Hobbies include reading, history, sailing, dancing, camping, and martial arts. I like long walks on the seashore and in the woods. Am interested in contacting other Wiccans. Am also starting a support group in RI.

Gwendolyn Spencer, P.O. Box 3453, Newport, RI 02840 (RI-2207)

NEW HAMPSHIRE (030- 038-)



Merissa L. NH-0001

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN (NH)

Executive Director I.F.G.E., Editor In Chief TV/TS Tapestry, Director 'Coming Together' Convention

Awards: Dr. Prince 'Lifetime Contribution' award

Single, 48, 6', 200, BA philosophy, athletically oriented (pro skier 8 years). A caring person, sincerely interested in the well-being of others. Interests: Folk singing, bridge (ACBL silver life master), the wilderness, loving and free thinking people. "I'm sorry but I cannot respond to personal correspondence. However, I'm very interested in hearing from people who are willing to put out some effort on behalf of our community. So, if you are a leader/worker-type person and willing to extend yourself to help others, write to me, or better, give me a call."

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 367, Wayland MA 01778 (617) 894-8340

RON B. (NH) (#53)

Professional WM, 5'10", 200, 39, considered handsome with spring fever. Seeking sweet romance with attractive passible TV, TS, or post-op. Prefer someone who is somewhat of a Wild Thing. Please send photo and

phone number.

R.G.B., P.O. 166, Bedford, NH 03102 (NH-1915)

Anne Marie NH-0844

ANNE MARIE (NH) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

78 yr-old retired physician, married. A life-long crossdresser. At present, thanks to a loving and forbearing wife, dress most of the time at home. Enjoying the privacy of rural life.

Anne Marie (NH-0844)

Carolann D. NH-0890

CAROLANN E. DURETTE (NH) (#55)

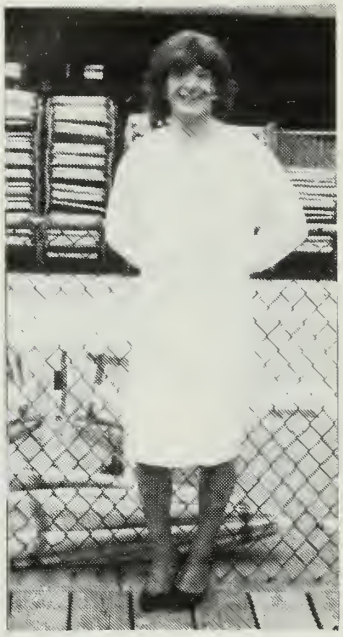
TS lesbian feminist, 41, and her understanding and involved partner, 35, interested in corresponding with and meeting similar individuals/couples. We will answer letters promptly, and are willing to entertain discreetly.

Carolann E. Durette, 819 2nd St., Suite B308, Manchester, NH 03102

CLAIRE DANIELLE (NH) (#55)

DWM, 5'8", 135, brown hair/eyes, size 9. Slowly attempting to live as I feel most comfortable. Seek honest help and support.

Bobby, P.O. Box 478, Wilton, NH 03086



Michelle St Laurant NH-1902

MICHELLE RENEE St. LAURENT (NH) (#53)

Member: TCNE

DWM, 35, 5'10", 180, growing my own permed hair so I don't have to wear a wig. I am becoming more passable with time and practice, and find myself gaining confidence with my femininity. I am looking for other TVs or TSs in the central NH area for friendship and support. We can all use a friend now and then.

Michelle Renee St. Laurent, 26 S. Main St #230, Concord, NH 03301

Michelle H. NH-2490

MICHELLE HALL (NH) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Participant: 'Coming Together'

Single CD, 5'9", 140, 40, trim and fit, and passable. Just coming out - with joy! Quiet, sensitive, articulate, comfortable with male self, but excited about expressing my female self. Interested in personal growth. An aerobatics pilot, artist, software engineer, and writer. "I like beauty in my surroundings, and like to build things. Want to experience as truly as I can what it's like to be a woman. Like to meet sincere, articulate, well adjusted genetic women, TS's, and CD's for friendship, support, girl talk, and just plain fun! Please send photo & phone number if you can.

Michelle H. (NH-2490)

MAINE (038- 047-)

GWYNETH H. (S ME) (54)

Participant: Fantasia Fair

TS, 37, 5'7", single. I enjoy long country walks, late dancing, Cinderella stories, folk music and reading. In the last two years my life has opened up with my transition. Fantasia Fair was a very helpful positive experience for me now and for my future.

Gwyneth H. (ME-1270)

Wendi Lynn K. ME-2034

WENDI LYNN KAISER (S ME) (#54)

Member: Transsupport

Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Coming Together'

Single, TS, 5'7", 145. Enjoys cooking, music, shopping, reading. "I enjoy reading spy novels and taking walks with friends. My life has opened up over the last year. When all else fails, go shopping. But most of all I enjoy sharing with others.

Wendi Kaiser, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick, ME 03908 (ME-2034)

KATHERINE M. (ME) (#54)

TS, 43, 160. Am just beginning physical transformation of something that I've been pursuing since I was 6. Interests include hiking, tent camping, cooking, photography, music, writing. Would like to hear from TS's - regardless of background, interests, or SRS. Warning: only coherent, intelligible letters answered.

Katherine M. (ME-2244)

Karen N. ME-0787

KAREN ANN NIELSEN (ME) (#54)

Member: TCNE

Participant: "Coming Together", Tiffany's P-town Outing

MWM hetero CD (since adolescence), 5'4", 130, friendly, happy, enjoys people, places, & things. Enjoys photography, walking, clothes, dining out, shopping, nature. "I would enjoy corresponding and exchanging photos with other crossdressers. I would also enjoy discreet shopping trips and dining out while dressed."

Karen Ann N. (ME-0787)

VERMONT (050- 059-)

Patricia K. VT-1998

PATRICIA KELLEY (VT) (#53)

Member: EON (past president)

Participant: Tiffany Couples Weekend

Mid-40's, 5'9", blue eyes, size 14. My wife and I would like to meet mature couples who are comfortable with their gender and the community. We are offering retreats for couples at our Inn in Vermont during April and November. We are interested in skiing, hiking, canoeing, outdoors, and your good company.

Patricia K. (VT-1998)

LUCILLE (VT) (#54)

5'10", 185, 75, well dressed. 50 years in the closet during two marriages, widowed twice, look like a 50 year old. Very much into make-up & dressing up, but not passible. Interested in skiing, sailing, and cooking. Living the heart of Vermont, and looking for company.

Lucille (VT-2021)

Helene H. VT-2021

HELENE H. (VT) (#54)

5'10", 185, slim and athletic. I ski and play tennis. Won't say how old I am, but have a very youthful muscular body. I live alone in the country. I've been a TV since I was 12, and didn't understand it. I love heavy make-up. With my face I could not go out, but my house is large and private. I would welcome visitors.

Helene H. (VT-2021)

PHYLLIS CARROLL (VT) (#53)

MWM, 6'2", 185, 48, hetero. Would like to meet and correspond with TV's from Vermont and Western NH. Interests: Crossdressing and everything feminine. Will answer all mail as quickly as possible.

P. Carroll, Box 164, Ctr Rutland, VT 05701

SHARON K. (VT) (#54)

MWM, 6', 37, slim, brown eyes, understanding spouse. Enjoys crossdressing & being my other self, snow machines, & the outdoors. Lifelong crossdresser, just becoming more open. Would like to hear how others have blended their feminine lives with spouses and life in general.

Sharon K. (VT-2176)

BRENDA KEITH (VT) (#53)

MWM, 32, 5'6". Outgoing, ski a lot, real busy lifestyle. A "high maintenance" TV. I moved to Vermont for the snow, but it is hard to find people to dress with. Please write if you would be interested in skiing or dressing up. I would love to correspond.

Brenda Keith, P.O. Box 4184, Burlington, VT 05406

CONNECTICUT (060- 069-)

Michelle K. CT-1490

MICHELLE KAY (CT) (#55)

MWM Hetero, 5'10", late 40's, blue eyes, light brown hair, Attractive, sincere, quiet. Enjoys swimming, cross-country skiing, music, theater, and travel. Looking for honest caring and helpful crossdressers.

Michelle K., Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

RENEE CARROLL (CT) (#56)

Member: NWGA, Crossroads

SWM hetero TV, 40+, 6'+. Interests range from American history to the causes of transgenderism. Other pursuits include cooking, travel, outdoors, photography.

Renee C. (CT-0292)

ANDREA G. (CT) (#56)

Married, 5'11, 170. Interests: Sports, good food, reading. "I would like to develop some friendships in the crossdressing community, and welcome correspondence."

Andrea (CT-0425)

Carla G. CT-0212

CARLA E. GOLDSNIDER (CT) (#53)

SWM, hetero TV, 5'10". Loves to crossdress. Would like to meet TVs and females for girl talk and friendships. I live alone in small house in the country.

Carla E. Goldsnider, 3741 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238

Diane M. CT-1812

DIANE MAYNARD (CT) (#53)

Member: Connecticut View

DWM TV, 48, 5'6", 145. Have been crossdressing for 40 yrs. I live by myself and enjoy going to parties dressed. Am looking for correspondence and companionship.

R.G. Maynard, P.O. Box 169, Somersville, CT 06072

RAMONA (CT) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Fantasia Fair

61, 5'11", 180; sometimes resemble Dustin Hoffman's "Tootsie". Enjoy oil painting, creating & altering my own (femme) clothes, and (of course) dressing!

Ramona (CT-1948)

JIM J. (CT) (#54)

5'8", 160, athletic build. Looking to correspond and possibly meet very passable TV/TS age 21-30 in Boston area.

Jim J. (CT-2032)

LORI (CT) (#54)

Tall, mature retiree, non-smoker. Enjoys all sports, especially golf and swimming. Also enjoys bridge, real estate, economics, and TV fiction. I am hoping to correspond with and meet a female favorably disposed to a shy novice crossdresser for friendship and fun. I'm also looking forward to correspondence with TVs and TSs with similar interests to share experiences.

Lori (CT-1777)

SAL CARBONE (CT) (#54)

Member: ETVC

Retired life-long TV with understanding wife. Would enjoy hearing how others started dressing and what they do now.

Sal Carbone, P.O. Box 8150, Manchester, CT 06040

LESLINA SUSAN (CT) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess, CT-View, Tiffany

SWM, 30, British hetero CD, 5'11", nice, caring, sincere, respectful, understanding, supportive. Likes to correspond/meet other CD/TV/TSs for possible get-togethers, and friendship. Would also like to hear from nice, caring genetic girls. Am interested in improving my feminine self. Enjoys photography, videography, music, special research, etc. Non-smoker, social drinker, real British lady/princess.

Leslina Susan - BIR - P.O. Box 106, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0106

RACHEL F. BOYCE (CT) (#56)

Member: Tiffany Club, CT Outreach Society

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Fantasia Fair

Professional accountant, 43, married, wife knows & supports. Two sons, 22 & 19. Interests: Life, music, dancing, dining out, & most of all shopping dressed. "I love meeting TV/TS's & supportive people. I like educating the public as I often do when out in public. I have become much more aware of my own being in the past 3 years with the friends that I have made through Tapestry.

Ms Rachel F. Boyce, P.O. Box 985, Windsor, CT 06095

RENA V. (CT) (#54)

DWM TV, retired, 50's, size 20. Loves the feminine feeling, nylons & heels. Has video & polaroid cameras. Looking for friends.

Rena (CT-0943)

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) (#55)

MWM hetero closet TV, 5'8", 165, 50's (appears younger), retired, gentle, sincere, on quiet side. Enjoys dressing & being feminine, loves heels, shoes, lingerie, jewelry. Wife not supportive, but aware. Interested in sports, music, reading & travel. Not passable, but would like to be. Would like to correspond with all interested as I am. (Photo exchange preferred.) Especially those in northeast. Possible meeting for friendship, support and sharing common interests.

Darlene S. Ross, 167 Cherry St, Suite 114, Milford, CT 06460

LESLINA SUSAN (CT) (#54)

Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess

SWM hetero occasional CD, 5'11", 30, deep TG feelings. British. Caring, sincere, fun-loving, respectful, understanding, supportive, non-smoker, social drinker. Likes the girl-rocker to fancy glamour princess look. Also like to hear from caring & understanding females for possible get-togethers and friendship. Enjoys music, photo/video-graphy, broadcasting, motor-car rallying. Likes to correspond/meet other CT/TG/TS.

Leslie B. (CT-2057)

Nicole S. CT-2228

NICOLE SNOW (CT) (#55)

Member: Tiffany Club, Tri-Ess, CT Outreach Society

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas 'T' Party

Hetero CD, divorced, 6'2", 39. Hobbies include running, hiking, music (especially CW, excluding opera), and reading. Willing to correspond. Especially in need of contact with others who have been able to work out issues related to their crossdressing with their significant other.

Ms Nicole Snow, P.O. Box 432, Unionville, CT 06085-0432

DIANE G. (CT) (#55)

Member: CT View

MWM hetero CD. Enjoy meeting people like myself who enjoy being in dresses. Enjoy photo sessions as girls. Travel Eastern States.

Diane G. (CT-2163)

Alice C. CT-2162

ALICE CARD (CT) (#54)

MWM, 5'10", 175, 38, size 18, blue eyes, blonde, crossdressing since about 13. Married to understanding wife. I enjoy water skiing, para-sailing & Beach Boy style music. Interested in crossdressing & going for walks & drives late at night. Also interested in photography & meeting other CD's with supportive wives.

A. Card, Box 673, Danbury, CT 06813

KATIE S. (CT) (#56)

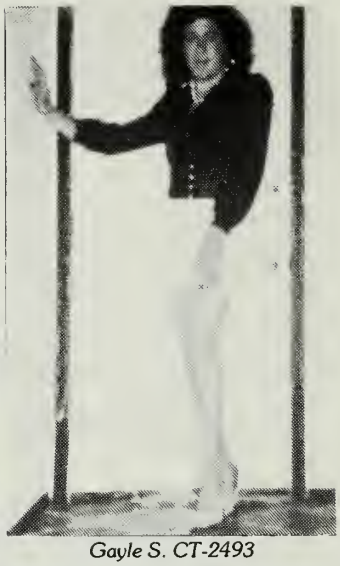
Bi TV/TS, 36, 5'10", 150. Very attractive, friendly, sensual, basically passable; Hormones 1+ years, smoker (but respectful). Would love to meet someone who: Works in a deli, drives a toyota, stays up late, can't drink, plays guitar (or whatever) in off the wall manner, is much much happier being her own woman, and who wouldn't mind sharing happy hearts together over, say... sushi in a dimly lit corner on a saturday night? (You could always order chicken.) P.S., I can travel.

K. Stahl, 33 Fort Point St., E Norwalk, CT 06855

RONI THOMPSON (CT) (#55)

Masculine, muscular professional male. "I would love to wine, dine, and dance with any attractive passable TV/TS who would like a sympathetic, empathetic escort to highlight their femininity."

Ron Thompson, Box 5962 Bayview Sta., Bridgeport, CT 06610 (CT-2477)



Gayle S. CT-2493

GAYLE S. (W CT) (#56)

SM TV, 5'10", 22, attractive. Envies anyone in a short skirt & hose. Interested in becoming a more attractive lady & meeting nice people to share dressing times. Wish to be involved with groups in the near future. Have been out in public often and really enjoy myself. This is my first ad, and I'm looking forward to meeting all who love the feeling of hose, heels, skirts, etc. like I do.

Gayle S. (CT-2493)

NEW JERSEY (070- 088-)

Joanna G. NJ-0520

JOANNA G. (NJ) (#53)

Member: Tiffany, Renaissance

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany events, Be-All.

DWM, 65, 6', healthy, non-smoker. Am interested in fashioning my own gowns, etc., learning knitting, and enjoy dining out, good music which would include the Boston Pops. "I have a feminine nature, like real values and relationships, and am considerate. Desire lasting, good friends; love "girl talk". Am nutritionally oriented, and consider good health to be of prime importance." Will respond to correspondence as is possible.

Joanna G. (NJ-0520)

ARLETTE (NJ) (#53)

SWM TV, 5'6", 36, slight build, passable. Quiet, sincere, and discreet. Educated professional. "Seeking sincere, mature, stable man for dating and romance to treat me like the woman I am. Permanent relationship possible. Will answer all. Phone number gets immediate response."

Arlette, Box 225, Holmdel, NJ 07733

JANN (NJ) (#53)

Divorced; semi-retired but feels like "kid sister". Interested in femme clothes, wigs, makeup, nature, art, music, correspondence, women's issues, home decorating, learning to cook and sew. Strictly heterosexual; would like to be a woman's housewife and husband. "I need correspondence."

Jann (NJ-1602)

Veronica H. NJ-1940

VERONICA HAMMER (NJ) (#53)

Member: Renaissance

Single, 25, 5'11", 185, PhD student in fine arts. Very active on gender oriented BBSs. "I'm a "Gender-Nomad". Every place in GenderLand is nice to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there forever. I have many supportive friends in the university community; am reaching out to the gender community for support, education, and friendship."

Veronica Hammer, P.O. Box 309, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

CHRISTINE M. (NJ) (#53)

Interests: High-end audio, sports, women's fashions catalogs and dressing. SWM, TV, 38, 5'11", 152. Gentle, sensitive, caring. About 25 years in the closet; now it's time to

communicate with others in deepening my female side. Seek advice from passable TV regarding femme voice, make-up, hair, etc. Will respond promptly.

Christine M. (NJ-1933)

GINA R. (NJ) (#54)

MWM, hetero, 37, 5'11", 200 (and dieting). Interested in history, classic films, comics, theology, classic rock music. I'm a closet TV just coming out. I'm not passable yet but would like to perfect my feminine self. I would like to correspond with TV's and TS's, especially in the Northern Jersey area. Will answer all.

Gina R. (NJ-2278)

Dee M. NJ-2270

DEE MATUSAWIC (NJ) (#54)

Bi TV, dominant, loves tight corsetry and rubber/leather ware. Desires to meet like minded sisters and women to share good times. Am specifically looking for a select few personal maids. Photo mandatory, and phone desireable.

D. Matusawic, P.O. Box 341, Richland, NJ 08350

DONNA ROESKE (NJ) (#54)

I am a M-F TS, 53, 5'7", 145, sandy hair, shoulder length. I am married and plan to stay so. I like hiking, sailing, classical music, and gardening. I am the parent of two boys, both adopted, and both are very precious to me.

Donna R. (NJ-2277)

G.J.P. (NJ) (#54)

SWM, 37, 6'4", professional, graduate level education. Interested in reading (history, politics), watching old movies, stamp collecting. Although probably too tall to pass, I have always been drawn to the TV lifestyle, but cannot fulfill my dreams in current situation. Have some parts of a wardrobe but no real chance to dress up. I am shy and quiet, and a little bit self-conscious. Would appreciate correspondence with other TV's on how to be more feminine, and advice on makeup, hairstyles, etc.

G.J.P. (NJ-2293)

JANE PEABODY (S NJ) (#56)

Member: Outreach Institute, Renaissance

Participant: DREAM, Fantasia Fair, Coming Together

Tall, reddish blonde. Enjoys high heels, classical music, theater, and travel. Likes to participate in real-world activities.

Jane P. (NJ-0242)

Robyn Ann D. NJ-1337

ROBYN ANN D. (S NJ) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Paradise in the Poconos

SWM, TV, 32, author, artist, photographer, film buff, tennis nut, engaged to the most wonderful, understanding and beautiful woman in the world! Editor-in-chief of En Femme magazine, publisher of En Femme Fiction magazine. Have appeared on local and national television on behalf of the community.

Robyn Ann, c/o En Femme, 1977 N. Olden Ave, Suite 205, Trenton, NJ 08618

PRISCILLA K. (NJ) (#56)

34, married to "non-enthusiastic" wife, healthy, sensitive, caring, articulate, imaginative, discrete. Interests: Submissive crossdressing, female supremacy, maid's uniforms, aprons, petticoats, and pinafores. Interested in corresponding with others sharing the submissive TV passions for exchange of ideas, consciousness raising, and relating of experiences both real and imagined. Still deeply "closeted" and somewhat shy, but willing to peek out for correspondence only.

Priscilla K. (NJ-1706)

Terry M. NJ-2400

TERRY M. (S NJ) (#55)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Poconos Weekend, Paradise in the Poconos

Single male CD, 37, 5'8", brown eyes & hair. Very grateful to be out of the closet. I have enjoyed much growth and self-acceptance through interaction and sharing with other gender people.

Terry M. (NJ-2400)

Alycia Jean (NJ-2031

ALYCIA JEAN (NJ) (#53)

Married hetero TV, 34, 6'1", size 20. Happily married to a beautiful woman. I'm hoping to attend a meeting soon (if I don't chicken out). Enjoy looking as feminine as possible. Will answer all letters.

Alycia Jean (NJ-2031)

SUZIE M. (N NJ) (#56)

MWM, late 40's, bi-TV, 6'1", loves lingerie, nylons, and high heels. Have been dressing all my life. Would like to meet other bi sisters to share fantasies.

Suzie M. (NJ-0686)

Katya NJ-2215

KATYA (NJ) (#54)

Hi! I am a 38 year-old who loves to explore her femnine side. I am 5'10", 150, Bi, and a life-live-long TV. As a busy professional person I don't get to be a girl all the time but when I do I enjoy getting out and meeting people. My wardrobe tends towards the classy tailored things I look best in. I would like to meet people like myself who live close enough to make occasional get-togethers a comfortable and enjoyable possibility. What I would really like would be to trade pictures and letters with others who are interested in sharing a little more than just fantasies.

Katya, P.O. Box 20, Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

JANE T. (S NJ) (#55)

MWM TV, 6', 210, 48, with supportive wife. "I'm a TV with a full beard for 30 years - can't leave closet, but love corsets, girdles, hose, heels, and latex. Dress at home. No sense going out with a beard, but if you know a way, let me know.

Jane T. (NJ-2339)

KATHERINE CHARLOTTE H. (NJ) (#53)

DWM, 6'1", 180, mid-40's, brown hair past shoulders, brown eyes, soft skin. Country girl yearns to come out and meet other girls. Am true-blue

honest, and caring. Can travel & I long to find a place to stay until I can pass in public. Will write all.

Katherine H. (NJ-2073)

Julie C. NJ-1460

JULIE C. (NJ) (#54)

MWM, 5'10", 30's, brown hair & eyes, thin. Love dressing pretty, especially in high heels. Enjoy music and meeting others like me. I also enjoy travel (especially P-town). I would love to go out more, all I need is a little encouragement. My wife helps as much as she can, but a friend would help a lot more.

Julie C. (NJ-1460)

Sharon D. NJ-2342

SHARON DAVIDSON (N NJ) (#55)

Member: Philadelphia TS Support

TS, 44, married to very supportive wife. Lives 75% of the time as woman. Want to meet others like myself. Quiet, sincere, caring. Wants to become more active in TS community.

Sharon D. (NJ-2342)

DEE J. (N NJ) (#54)

SWM TV, 46, 6', 152, college education, shy, just out of the closet. Dressing for past 21 years. Would like to meet others interested in and attracted to TV's. Enjoy TV clubs, mini skirts (have been told I have nice legs). Could use help from others with makeup. Letters with photo receive prompt response.

Dee J. (NJ-2337)

CHRISTINE M. (N NJ) (#56)

SWM, 39, 5'11", 140, life long CD, sensitive, gentle, caring. Interests: High end audio, sports, and everything feminine. "I cherish my female side and the tapestry has greatly helped me to understand and love the "girl within." Will correspond to any sister to make new friends. Still in the closet, need to be pushed to a meeting.

Christine M. (NJ-1933)

Stacy R. NJ-2468

STACY R. (N NJ) (#55)

Single TV, 35, 6', 160, blonde, blue-green eyes. Presently in therapy, integrating all of my aspects, and growing in self-acceptance. I want out of the closet, but would like some support from the community. Wide range of interests: history, herstory, world affairs, nature, music, Zen, Tai Chi Chuan, film. I'm looking for friends in the community for correspondence and friendship. Send photo, phone #, and letter

Stacy R. (NJ-2468)

STEPHANIE D. (S NJ) (#55)

SWM TS, 35, 5'5", 150. Enjoys cooking, sewing, antiques, gardening. I love to dress as woman, and would like to correspond and meet other TV's & TS's for friendship and support. I am a warm and caring person who understands the loneliness of not having anyone to share the feminine side of ourselves. I will keep your secret.

Stephanie D. (NJ-2527)

NEW YORK (090- 149-)

Joan F. NY-1220

JOAN FASHIONS (N NY) (#54)

Member: Tri Ess, NGA

MWM TV/TG, 54, retired. Live mostly as Joan. Travel NYC/NJ area for shopping, socials, etc. Family grown and understanding. Letters with photo will receive prompt response.

Joan Fashions, P.O. Box 1756 S. Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Joanna Pauline NY-0973

JOANNA PAULINE (W NY) (#56)

Member: Tri Ess, EON, CD Network

Married TV, 42, two daughters, wife knows and is tolerant, but finds acceptance difficult. older daughter also knows. Interests: Photography, cinema, home video, gardening, swimming. Membership chairperson for Rochester CD-Network. Interested in hearing from people interested in joining our support group, and finding new friends.

Joanna Pauline, PO Box 15731, Rochester, NY 14615

Vickie S. NY-1035

VICKIE STONE (SE NY) (#56)

Member: LIFE, Chi Delta Mu

Hetero TV, 6', 185, attorney. Hobbies include writing (has published in Femme Mirror & 'Femanine', editor 'Lifelines'). Former pro musician. Still enjoys songwriting. writing (fiction & non-fiction), music (former pro musician - guitar & bass). Still enjoys song-writing. Home recordist, avid photographer. Has darkroom. Avid skier. Seeks fellow TV ski bums to ski NY, MA & VT. Enjoys NYC night clubs. Tries to respond to all letters sooner or later. Enjoys helping novices.

Vickie Stone, Box 31, Hempstead, NY 11551

Gretchen L. NY-1359

GRETCHEN L. (W NY) (#54)

Participant: Fantasia Fair

6'1", blue eyes, 195, good figure. Enjoys bike riding, hiking and crossdressing. Would like to meet other TVs in the Buffalo NY area. Would like to have dinner out.

Gretchen L., P.O. Box 231, Celeron, NY 14720

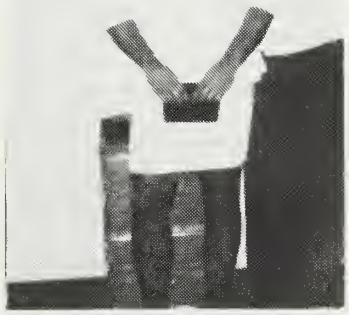
Joanne E. NY-1224

JOANNE E. (SE NY) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, 56, 6', 250. Interests: "I love to dress and have done so every day for 25 years. Have very supportive wife who would love to hear from other wives or SO's Promise to answer all with photo."
Joanne E., P.O. Box 310, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

Angela S. NY-0719

ANGELA S. (W NY) (#56)
Member: EON, TVA
Participant: Tiffany Couples' Weekend, Joyce Dewhurst Pocono Outings, Coming Together
Awards: EON Pioneer Award
5'10", 190, brown hair, blue eyes, 40's. Baby boomer in bloomers; just another big-boned beauty. Interests: Motorcycling, fly-fishing, boating, radio controlled planes, travel, Native American music & traditions, jazz. "I enjoy being a complete person and helping others to feel comfortable about crossdressing. I am always magnetically attracted to having a good time. Sometimes passable, other times - who cares! Very active in W NY, founder of EON. Personal freedom & character growth are very important. We must be all we can be and help others to do the same.
Angela S. (NY-0719)

MICHELLE P. (N NY) (#55)
Member: TGIC
Upstate NY TV. Adores everything feminine. Seeks TV's & women for friendship and possible meetings. Will answer all sincere letters.
Michele P. (NY-1534)



Randi R. NY-1814

RANDI ROGERS (W NY) (#53)
Single, 34, 6'. Enjoy sports, golf, quiet evenings, and outdoors. Live in Niagara Falls. "I am just now starting to feel good about myself. Would like to hear from others with their thoughts, ideas, and comments. I'm interested in attending parties and meetings.
Randi Rogers, P.O. Box 1473, Buffalo, NY 14240-1473

RENEE' SLOCUM (W NY) (#53)
SWM, 31, 5'11, 160, college educated, hetero, shy, not out of the closet, good sense of humor. Would like to correspond with and possibly meet other CDs and women in the Finger Lakes area to swap ideas and possibly form a local group.
Renee' Slocum, Box 977, Geneva, NY 14456

MICHELLE M. (SE NY) (#56)
Member: L.I.F.E.
Events: Fantasia Fair '87, '88; Tiffany Spring Outing '88, IFGE Coming Together Convention '88
I love to go out in public and pass easily. My appearance is very good, but need work on mannerisms and especially voice. Working on developing one integrated, androgenous personality rather than two extremes. Love music (popular, jazz) skiing (advanced intermediate) and all things feminine.
Michelle M., 114-41 Queens Blvd., #272, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Jan NY-1187

JAN (SE NY) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess, NYGA
Events: Poconos Weekend
SWM, 41, 5'11", 170 lbs. I like to dress lady-like and conservative for a night out with friends at comfortable Manhattan restaurants and cabarets. I also love to dress up for classical concerts and opera. Would enjoy sharing experiences.
Jan (NY-1187)

Susan H. NY-1677

SUSAN HOWARD (N NY) (#55)
Member: TGIC
Early 50's, 5'8", slender, bisexual. Love philosophy, poetry, reading, gardening. Published poet and writer. Would like friends in the Bennington VT, low Adirondack area of NY. Will answer correspondence. I enjoy my feminine side, dress up every chance I get, but can't come out.
Susan Howard, P.O. Box 92, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Connie T. NY-0434

CONNIE TAYLOR (W NY) (#56)
MWM elderly hetero TV, 5'5", 125, with supportive wife. Likes clean cut clothes and tall heels. Loves to correspond and all letters promptly answered.
Connie Taylor, Box 0734, Jamestown, NY 14702

Winnie B. NY-0228

WINNIE BRANT (N NY) (#55)
Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess, TGIC
Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair
Hetero TV, 50+, 6'2", a lady. Has many interests, scientific and culturally oriented. Loves to travel.
Mr W. Brant, Box 741, Schenectady, NY 12301

Barbara B. NY-0258

BARBARA B. (SE NY) (#56)
Member: NYCGA

MWM, 48, 5'10", 160. Wife does not approve. Interests: Fashion, Music, dancing, new friends. Values friendship, honest, and discretion. Passable in public, but very nervous about it. Prefers all CD settings. just re-emerging from the closet after 3 years. Looking forward to enjoying our special sisterhood again!

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

FRANCINE LORRAINE C. (W NY) (#55)

SWM, 40's, 5'10", 170, dress conservatively. Likes hiking, cooking, history, outdoors, dressing up & being feminine. Would like to correspond with others like myself. Need to accept and understand being a TV. Would welcome all TV's passing through area. Can travel and visit others.

Francine Lorraine C. (NY-1584)

JULIE ANN C. (N NY) (#55)
Participant: FF '78, '88 & '89
Awards: "Best Girlfriend Award" (from my wife)

hetero TV, 50's, 5'9". I live out in the country in Northern NY, and dress often. I also enjoy my Fantasia Fair trips with my adopted sister, Winnie B.

Julie Ann C. (NY-1695)

LYNDA (NY) (#56)

MWM TV, 37. Interested in writing to and meeting with others who are interested in crossdressing. Looking for someone who could help me with same.

Lynda (NY-0775)

CONSTANCE LEE (W NY) (#53)

MWM, 36, hetero, interested in writing and hearing from others to whom "CD" means more than "Compact Disk". Honest, sincere, and quick as possible with correspondence. Enjoy "girl talk" through the mail. Especially interested in hints and experiences of being more ladylike, but open to any topic.

Constance Lee, Box 368, Derby, NY 14047-0368

Josephine C. NY-0880

JOSEPHINE (SE NY) (#53)
Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess

Participant: Principal events in Europe and US.

Hetero, married, middle age, 5'10", engineer. Very long life as a TV. "I love shopping, gardening, cooking, cleaning, and photography. My work enables me to travel, and I would enjoy to meet others, even abroad. Will reply all mail.

J. Chara, Box 671, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Charliss D. NY-1856

CHARLISS D. (W NY) (#56)
Member: Tiffany, EON

Fairly new, have attended events in Boston, Albany, Rochester. Single, educated, professional, world traveler. Likes adventure and meeting like-minded people. Very strong feminine nature. Ten year 12-step experience. Interested in fourth dimension, sharing and intimacy. Enjoy getting together, shopping, dining out. Attracted to and respect expressions of individuality. A sharer willing to receive as well as give.

Charliss D. (NY-1856)

Bonnie H. NY-1186

BONNIE H. (W NY) (#53)
Member: EON

MWM, 38, 5'7", size 12, blue eyes and brown hair.

Bonnie's interests include sailing, golf, singing, and ship model building. Bonnie dresses very frequently and has the full support of her spouse. Passions are shoes and pierced earrings. Very conservative in appearance, typical of today's active businesswoman. Bonnie would enjoy corresponding with any sister.

Bonnie H. (NY-1186)

Trenna Marie M. NY-0623

TRENNA MARIE M. (W NY) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Wine Country Weekend, CDM Pocono WE, Muriel Olive WE

65, retired, 5'8", 185, hetero, married. Have been dressing 55 years, have supportive wife. Love to go out dressed, but can't in my area. Like to write and exchange photos.

Trenna Marie (NY-0623)

STEPHANIE LYNN (N NY) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess

5'9, 38, 180, dk. blond, size 16. Interested in talking to a post-op TS and meeting to exchange thoughts. "I enjoy being a girl 95% of the time, although I can't. Stephanie is a fun-loving girl with a great sense of humor. She has strong TS desires since early childhood. She would enjoy being escorted out by a sensitive male. She is a conservative dresser, heels, hose, and pretty dresses. Will answer all.

Stephanie Lynn (NY-1744)

MONIQUE TELESE (NY) (#53)
Attendee: Be All '87, '88

5'11" tall, 158 lbs., naturally dark brown hair. Totally passable; starting voice lessons. Enjoy driving classic Corvette, dining out, shopping, quiet "fireplace" evenings, good wine, music, and conversation.

Monique Telese (NY-1184)

Brenda K. NY-1887

BRENDA KEITH (N NY) (#53)
Member: EON

MWM, 32, 5'6", outgoing, ski nearly every day in winter, motorcycle in summer. Am taking up hobie cat racing this spring. This year Brenda has hopes of getting out more than ever. I want to develope all aspects of my femininity. I would enjoy meeting and writing to TVs and TSs, especially those who live near ski areas and have room for a guest.

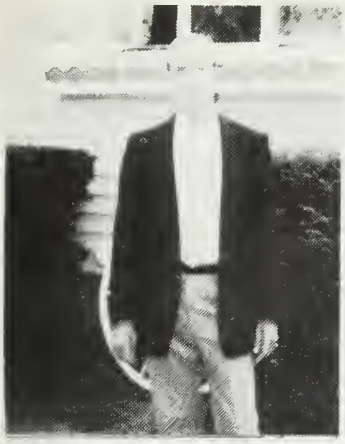
Brenda Keith, P.O. Box 168, Bridgeport, NY 13030

DELORES MERHIGE (SE NY) (#53)
Member: Chi Delta Mu, LIFE, Serenity

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, 'Coming Together'

Married, middle-aged, 5'10", medium build, engineer, life long TV. Interests: Fashion, clothes, makeup, socializing, music, art, photography, sailing, tennis, reading. Promises to answer all mail as quickly as possible.

D. Merhige, P.O. Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762



Lou B. NY-1908

LOU BETCHER (LI NY) (#56)

Bi WM, 46, 6'1", 168, brown/gray hair. Am interested in meeting TV/TS for get-togethers. Would appreciate a photo and how to contact. Photo will be returned upon request. I'm a little shy and submissive. All letters will be answered.

Lou Betcher, Box 501, Brentwood, NY 11717 (NY-1908)

BETTY PRINCE (NYC NY) (#54)

WS pre-op TS, 5'7", light brown hair, green eyes. Can pass as a woman without problem, likes all sports, music, and sci-fi books and movies.

Betty P. (NY-1304)

TINA SCHULTZ (SE NY) (#53)

SWM hetero, 30, 5'8", 140. Has been dressing for over 20 years. Enjoys sports, sci-fi, computers, and of course crossdressing. I'm still a novice but looking to come out and pass in public.

Tina S. (NY-1981)

KIMBERLY SHAEL (W NY) (#53)

45, 5'5", handsome, with an excellent sense of humor. Enjoys tennis, racquetball, bicycling, flying, relaxing evenings, movies, and travel. Would love to correspond with all. Would welcome all TVs passing through the area. Come visit and chat awhile. I have been a TV all my life and have only recently come to appreciate my feminine side. I love to write.

Kimberly S. (NY-2022)

KATE MORRISEN (SE NY) (#54)

Member: LIFE

MWM hetero TV, 6'1", 43, non-smoker. My wife knows, but chooses not to be involved. I would very much like to meet a special woman, a TV or TS who will accept me as Kate and become my friend. We could enjoy a glass of wine over lunch, & go shopping. I can offer advice on getting proper fitting corsets and brassieres (was trained by a licenced corsetierre in Paris). I think you'll find me interesting, happy, an intelligent person who enjoys life. Please write soon so we can share as sisters our hopes, dreams, and fantasies. You'll be glad you did!

Kate Morrisen, P.O. Box 20, Jericho, NY 11753

Vicki Renee F. NY-2155

VICKI RENEE FOLTS (W NY) (#57)

Member: TGIC, Crossroads of Buffalo

M-F TS who has been living & working full time for 1 1/2 years. I am 5'11", 32, green eyes & sandy blonde hair. Interested in corresponding both by phone & mail to other TV's & TS's. Play many instruments & write music which I record. Love shopping & fine dining & travel. Interested in helping others in any way I can.

Vicki F. (NY-2155)

Victoria N. NY-1960

VICTORIA LOUISE NORRELL (SE NY) (#55)

I like who I am, what I am, and where I am, for I am Victoria and I love life. With care and planning I will effect my destiny, helping those that I can along the way to be positive wholesome people. I dress, shop, dine, travel, go to movies, concerts, and enjoy a myriad of feminine things. Would like to learn ballroom dancing. I enjoy "tinplate" railroading, and am very much in love with a beautiful woman named Carla. I live by my creed which is, "I can never be a woman but I will never be anything less than a lady."

Will try to answer all, to all I wish PEACE.. of mind.. of heart.. of spirit.

Victoria N. (NY-1960)

LILIAN FRANK (NYC NY) (#55)

Long-time CD, 45. Would like to meet or correspond with any TV's or TS's (M-F or F-M) who feel there might be a "spiritual dimension" to their condition.

Lilian F. (NY-2230)

Rachel C. NY-2123

RACHEL C. (N NY) (#54)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, 'Coming Together'

Fun loving transgenderist contemplating transsexuality. Love to dance, shop, travel. Intelligent, sensitive and sensual. Part-time musician with full-time dreams. Have recorded songs with transgenderist lyrics - available on cassette. Would love to correspond with interested others.

Rachel C., Box 12293, Albany, NY 12212

VINCENT M. (SE NY) (#54)

Single male, 6', 180, brown on brown, handsome, Italian heritage. Fine arts photographer. Looking to meet and communicate with pre- or post-operative transsexuals. Want to have fun and feel free to think and act the way we please. Let's just have fun!

Vincent M. (NY-2269)

TIFFANY S. (SE NY) (#55)

6', blue eyes, brown hair. No drugs, no alcohol, am not gay or bi-, learning more about my female self. I am 29, and have been crossdressing as long as I can remember. I would like to meet others who could help me dress up. I am shy about my crossdressing, but have finally found the courage to accept myself for who I am. I'm just coming out for the first time.

Tiffany S. (NY-2246)

Marjorie T. NY-2266

MARJORIE THOMAS (NYC) (#55)

SWM, 34, 5'7", 130, very passable when made-up correctly, size 8. I'm quite content to have both male and female personas. I have typical interests for both genders. When I'm dressed, I'm ultra-feminine. Still basically in the closet, I would like to meet others of my age in the NE section of the country. I am a private person and prefer discretion.

Marjorie T. (NY-2266)

NANCY WILLIAMS (NYC) (#55)

Attractive wasp, gay TV, 42, former college prof., likes ballet & opera. Seeks male or TV for loving permanent relationship.

Bill Williams, P.O. Box 283, NY, NY 10021

BILLIE JAY WEST (APO NY) (#55)

Member: Renaissance

MWM, separated TV, 47, 6'2", 200, size 20, children grown and gone. Live alone, smoker, social drinker. Ready to come out but don't know how. Love being a girl, wearing lingerie and all things feminine. Dress completely at home as often as possible. Enjoy reading and writing erotic D/S fantasies, and would love to correspond with others, straight or bi, who enjoy the same. If you are coming to Europe in the next year (90-91), meeting possible. Will answer all. Photo appreciated. Have polaroid can travel.

Billie W. (APO-2374)

JUDITH B. (N NY) (#55)

White bi TV, 335, 48, health & hygiene conscious. Seeks right male, female, M/F couple, or TV for romantic times. Like to be treated as a total woman that I could be. No drugs. Please sent Detailed letter with picture & phone #.

Judith B. (NY-1678)

SANDY W. (W NY) (#55)

Shy. Interests: Auto repair, running, skiing, bike riding, tennis.

Sandy W. (NY-2371)

Joanne S. NY-2375

JOANNE R. SILVERMAN (SE NY) (#56)

Member: CT Outreach Society

Married (she doesn't know), 50, 5'11", 190, conservative dresser. Education: Advanced degrees. Shuns macho image. Caring, passable. Interests: Photography, movies, theatre, reading, travel. Thoroughly enjoys corresponding with sisters who have similar interests. "I would love to meet as many new friends in the NYC/ Westchester area as possible to share our common femininity. I will respond to all who write, and if a phone number is included, absolute discretion is promised.

Ms Joanne R. Silverman, P.O. Box 374, Millwood, NY 10546

JULIE THOMPSON (W NY) (#55)

SWM (widowed), 47, 5'9". Just starting out of the closet, shy, still nervous and in need of guidance. Would like to meet TV/TS and understanding women for discreet evenings and good times. I golf (I hit the ball a lot), dabble in photography, and am an avid reader (spy novels). Love crossdressing almost as much as flying. I have some hours toward my license, but expanding my wardrobe is top priority. Please write and I will answer all quickly so we can share experiences and enjoy ourselves as sisters.

Julie Thompson, P.O. Box 896, Buffalo, NY 14205

MARSHA W. (NYC) (#55)

Hetero CD. Would like my wife to meet other Spanish speaking wives whose husbands crossdress. I would like to attend group discussions with others like me.

H. Winston, P.O. Box 1311 Wall St. Sta., NY, NY 10268

Veronica M. NY-2482

VERONICA MARTIN (N NY) (#55)

Member: TGIC

SWM hetero TV, 5'9", 160, slowly coming out of closet. Enjoy dressing up in very feminine party dresses and full skirts with petticoats and crinolines. Also enjoy music and most sports. Would love to meet and/or correspond with real females with feelings and understanding to enhance my femininity and masculinity. I have my own house all to myself.

Veronica Martin (TGIC), P.O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212 (NY-2482)

ALEXANDRA McKAY (NYC) (#55)

Member: CT Outreach

41, 6', 245, white. Seeks friends in Staten Island, Elizabeth, Bayonne, NYC, Brooklyn, Queens. Enjoy classical music, war games, science fiction & computers.

Alexandra McKay, P.O. Box 140297, Staten Island, NY 10314 (NY-2466)

TERRI SHANNON (W NY) (#56)

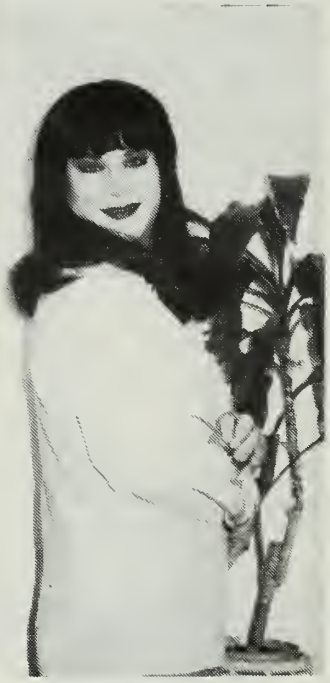
SWM pre-op TS, 42, 5'10", usually brown hair. Enjoys motorcycling, camping, photography, modeling, tall males, and M-F couples. Lively and personable, although sometimes shy-to-introspective. I am told that I am very passable, yet seek new and understanding female & male friends, and couples to bolster my fem ego. I enjoy quiet dates and small party life. An exhibitionist at heart, I travel NY State and Easter Ontario extensively and seek escorts and good friends. Love to model my large wardrobe. Will meet New Yorkers and Ontarians who send photo and letter of interests.

Ms Teri Shannon, P.O. Box 1091, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (NY-1906)

JENNIFER B. (LI NY) (#56)

SWM, 41, 5'9", TV. Interests: metaphysics, psychology, reading, fashions. "Shy novice trying to bloom. Love lingerie, corsets, feminine costumes and fantasies. Seeks meetings and correspondence with TV's and TS's or anyone with like interests. Live on Long Island."

Jennifer B. (NY-2441)



Jan Marie E. NY-2443

JAN MARIE E. (NYC) (#56)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Poconos

Brown hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 160, 33. "I love all things feminine, shopping, dining, sports, and travel. Just coming out. Wife doesn't accept. Life long TV with TS feelings. Need help with makeup and friends."

Jan Marie E. (NY-2443)

LAURA STONE (W NY) (#56)

5'10", 45, 150, TV, hetero. Interests include art, movies, good food and fashion. Interested in corresponding with other TV's in the Northeast; travel a lot and would like to visit with others when in their location.

Laura Stone, P.O. Box 482, Amherst, NY 14226 (NY-1924)

BARBARA V. (W NY) (#55)

WM, 5'11", 160, 42. Enjoys astronomy and boating. Would like to meet a transsexual that has gone through or is going through the process of being a female. Prefer from upstate NY.

Mr. Harold M. Vargason, 14407 Baker Rd, Kent, NY 14477 (NY-2511)

DENISE DOWNTON (W NY) (#55)

5'11", 175, nice shape. Love to dress up. I am on hormones, and totally feminine. First ad. Please send photo & telephone #, & I will do the same.

Denise Downton, Box 2802, Binghamton, NY 13902-9998

Heidi Ann C. NY-2522

HEIDI ANN COBART (N NY) (#56)

Married, 34, transgendered. Have been dressing all my life. Could not have gotten as far as I have with my acceptance without a lot of supportive counseling, friends, and a loving wife, and most recently an accepting mother-in-law. Am a very feminine dresser, and love to express that part of myself as much as possible. My wife and I are looking forward to hearing from other individuals and married couples who share this common bond that we are all struggling with for friendship and support. Serious replies will get quick response as I love to write. Mail can be sent to:

Heidi Ann Cobart, 1 Bleecker Terr., Apt 105, Albany, NY 12206 (NY-2522)

PENNSYLVANIA (150- 196-)

CATHERINE ROSEMARY D. (E PA) (#56)

Member: Outreach

SWM hetero crossdresser, 60+, 5'9", 190. "It's unlikely that I would pass, but am interested in the world of the crossdresser, and would like to get acquainted."

Catherine D. (PA-0748)

DAVIDA T. (E PA) (#56)

SWM, 39, shy and discreet. Just starting to come out, thanks to a few friends. Enjoy spending my free time being as feminine as possible. I'm

seeking friends who would like to share that time with.

Davida T. (PA-0944)

Sheila K. PA-0336

SHEILA KIRK (W PA) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors (Executive Committee), 'Coming Together' staff

Member: Tiffany Club, TransPitt, Paradise

Participant: Everything

Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing. I work very hard so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm anxious to meet many others who delight in the same feelings.

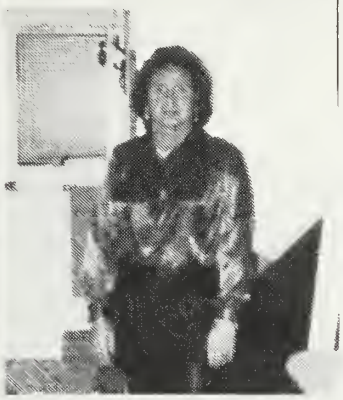
Sheila K. (PA-0336)

Janet R. PA-1879

JANET ROSE (PA) (#53)

SWM TV, 46, 5'11", 149. Interests: business, race cars, domestic chores, crossdressing. I do turn into an exhibitionist in front of a camera. Would love to meet mature, understanding women for fun and friendship. Girlfriend also interested in meeting CDs/wives.

Janet Rose (PA-1879)



Robin Lee F. PA-0932

ROBIN FREY (E PA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance

42-year-old pre-op would love to find employment and live full-time as a female. Free to travel; would love for other TVs and TSs to give me a call.

Robin, Box 1341, West Chester, PA 19380 (215) 696-6468 (PA-0932)

Alison L. PA-1242

ALISON LAING (E PA) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

Awards: FF Miss Congeniality

Middle age, middle sized, life-long CD. Married with wonderful supportive spouse. Enjoys arts and crafts, jewelry and fabrics. Loves to shop at fleamarkets and antique shops. Loves good food, wine, travel and dancing. "I take my gender shift very seriously and work hard to be at least unobtrusive if not passable. Most of all I try to have lots of fun and at the same time help make others in our community happy."

Alison Laing, P.O. Box 635, Phoenixville, PA 19460

JENNIFER WHITE (W PA) (#56)

Member: TransPitt, Paradise

Participant: 'Be All'

5'10", 170, brown hair, green eyes. Interests: Sports, fashion, writing, photography. "Looking for males for escorts, CD's for shopping, going out, etc. Nothing bizarre, please.

Jennifer White (PA-1722)

ROBIN F. (W PA) (#54)

SWM, 39, 6'1", 165. Professional. Interests: Jogging, jazz, mysteries, myth, mysticism, sports & cooking. Would enjoy dialogue with others interested in caring, non-exploitive, supportive relationships and psychology of crossdressing fantasies. Mine include frilly square dancing outfits, petticoats swirling under kilts, and ballerinas.

Robin F. (PA-2020)

HARRIET (W PA) (#55)

Member: Transpitt

Tall, thin, caring professional, size 16T, 46, athletic. I think Shelly Tall Girl shops are "almost heaven". My dream is to play tennis with Renee Richards.

Harriet (PA-1623)

LORRAINE RICHARDS (W PA) (#53)

SWM hetero TV, 5'8", 160, 31. Interested in history, books, and "how things work". Very private person. I'm happy with my male self, but it thrills me to see the contrast as Lorraine emerges. Satisfaction is seeing her and thinking "nice lady!" Would love to correspond and exchange photos with any other part-time girls who dress to be completely convincing. I've never been out dressed, but think I could pass.

Lorraine R. (PA-2131)

SUE ANN S. (C PA) (#55)

SWM hetero TV, 5'9", 150, 45. Interested in meeting TV's, TS's, & women for dining, dancing, shopping, girl talk, etc. No drugs or heavy drinkers.

Sue Ann S. (PA-1458)

Maryann K. PA-1531

MARYANN KIRKLAND (E PA) (#55)

Member: Renaissance

MWM hetero TV, 5'11", late 30's, auburn hair, and expressive brown eyes. Interests: Classical ballet, opera, 19th century literature, fine wines, shopping & partying with other sisters. "I'm willing to work to create a positive educated public image of crossdressing. Fond of full skirts, petticoats, crinolines and hair ornaments. Those of like interest should write.

Maryann Kirkland, Suite 401, New Woman Marketplace, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Brenda D. PA-2253

BRENDA DAVIDSON (C PA) (#54)

Member: LSV Chapter Renaissance

SWM hetero TV, 26, 5'8", 150. Passes well. National ranked motorcycle road racer. I enjoy shopping, social events, helping and welcoming newcomers into our community. Enjoys music, a movie buff, being with true friends who accept me for who I am - a mix of male and female that comes together to form a truly unique person. I am interested in meeting and corresponding with other people across the country, especially in the Central PA area.

Brenda D. (PA-2253)

Sue C. PA-1536

SUE C. (C PA) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Pocono W/E
58, 140, 5'10", has been crossdressing for many years. Supportive wife. My main interest is writing to & meeting others who enjoy their femininity. Have had some of the girls visit us for the weekend. Will not respond to sexually oriented letters, but will answer all others.
Sue C. (PA-1536)

Hillary C. PA-2387

HILLARY C. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance
Participant: Paradise In The Poconos
Single TV, 5'10", 145, 24, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys dancing, sharing feelings, music, comedy and old movies. Would like to meet a passable, caring TV to share the joys of being a woman. Also would like to exchange photos, stories, and dreams.
H. Conway, P.O. Box 1556, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

CAMMILLE S. (W PA) (#54)
Rather middle aged (40's), plumpish leather freak who for the letters, though often forget to respond to them. Try to emulate '50s type woman, heavily padded, dressed too warmly, overly made-up, and overweight (not by design). Also like satin when found, and total feminine appearance.
Cammille S. (PA-1274)

JAMIE W. (C PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance
5'10", 180, 50's. Enjoys cross-dressing, leather, & high heels. New in the sisterhood.
Occupant, P.O. Box "J", Hershey, PA 17033

SHARON M. (E PA) (#55)
Member: Renaissance
SWM, 32, 5'10", 145. Lives in Phila area. Attractive, non-smoker, serious writer; interested in correspondence and dating females and "T" people. Cross-dressing has come between my last two girlfriends and me. Time to start finding friends who understand.
Sharon M. (PA-2326)

Craig S. PA-1977

CRAIG SAMSON (E PA) (#54)
SWM, 35, athletically built and masculine in disposition. "I am seeking very feminine TV's or TS's between the ages of 21 to 25 to meet & develop possible long term relationships with. I work in construction & can travel to NY, NJ, & DE. Please send photo & phone. Will answer all those who meet my requirements.
Craig S. (PA-1977)

PAMELA DRESSER (W PA) (#56)
MWM hetero, 5'10", 148, 45, size 8. Professionally employed, married to a wonderfully tolerant wife. Interests: Boating, motorcycling, skiing, camping, canoeing, traveling and shopping. "Although I've enjoyed all forms of lingerie for over 10 years, and am particularly fond of wearing nylon and lace under feminine sportswear, I don't yet have the confidence to come out. Would love to attend a P-town or similar outing. I consider myself a novice, and would like to correspond with anyone who has successfully expressed his feminine side beyond the closet. Will respond swiftly to all sincere correspondence."
Pamela D. (PA-2455)

W.D.A. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance-Reading
Bi WM, 38, 5'7", stocky build, brown hair, green eyes. Interests: Fine dining, walks, music (especially jazz), dancing, movies, and theatre. "Although I have not crossdressed, I have been attracted life long to those who do. At this point I would like to date TV/TS's and learn more on a personal basis of the TV/TS culture. Would also enjoy corresponding with those wishing to share their experiences. I will answer all correspondence ASAP."
W.D.A. (PA-2464)

Cynthia H. PA-0952

CINDY H. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance, Phila. TS Support
Participant: 'Coming Together'
Pre-op TS, 5'9", 175, brown hair, hazel eyes, sagittarius, female hormone therapy, electrolysis. Very shy & isolated. Interests: Living female role, becoming woman, meeting masculine white males, music, videos, shopping, intimate dating. "Taking steps towards goal; sex reassignment surgery. Really enjoy living as a woman. Want to 'fit in' life, become a complete person, develop relationships with proper identities. Mentally, I've always considered myself to be female, have disguised male physical characteristics to appear female when going out in public."
Cindy H. (PA-0952)

DELAWARE (197- 199-)

Phyllis L. DE-0931

PHYLLIS V. LARSON (DE) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
60, 6', 180, married 40 years to understanding wife. Self employed, often dresses in home & office, sleeps en femme. Electrolysis completed, active in sailing, has raced the Newport to Bermuda race, active in Protestant church. FAA rated pilot, resides in Southern Delaware. Letters answered.
Phyllis L. (DE-0931)

AUDREY J. STEELE (DE) (#55)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Holiday En Femme'
WWM TV, 5'10", 195, 54, blue eyes, brown hair. I am almost all the way "out of the closet". My mother knows and accepts me as Audrey. 3 grown & married children don't know yet. I love all facets of cross-dressing, and dress a lot of the time. I like photography, model railroading, hunting, fishing, travel, meeting other CD's, writing to CD friends, making new friends, talking "girl-talk". Will answer. Please write.
John J. Steele Sr., RD 2, Box 226, Marydel, DE 19964 302-492-3813 (DE-2434)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (200- 205-)

TOM D. (DC) (#55)
WM, 5'9", 165, 50, light brown hair, blue eyes, fair to good looks. Stable, sincere, in good shape. Worked hard, travelled a lot, now ready to settle down and enjoy being with and caring for attractive and contented TS. I want to appreciate the opportunities of being there for you whenever it counts. Many interests and likes, actual and potential. All answered.
Tom D. (DC-2209)

MARY ELLEN (DC) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, 55, limited opportunities to dress; enjoy it thoroughly. Understanding wife in terms of personal underclothing. Love to read TV fiction and real life experiences of others. Correspondence will be answered.
Mary Ellen (DC-1438)

Roberta L. DC-0972

ROBERTA LEWIS (DC) (#56)
Member: Washington-Baltimore Alliance
DBM, 38, 6'2", 200. Interests: Cycling, latest hits, going out, visiting the 'Big Apple'. "Even though the WBA takes a lot of my time, I still will find time to answer letters (please, only from CD's and transgendered persons). I still want to hear from other black CD's.
R. Lewis, P.O. Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004-0724 (DC-0972)

JAYNE M. (DC) (#53)
Late 40's, 5'9", 165, brown hair, blue eyes. Finally giving my feminine side a chance to come out. Still learning, so would appreciate any help from sisters.
J.M., P.O. Box 33111, Washington, DC 20033

MARYLAND (206- 218-)

RICKI F. (MD) (#53)
MWM, 55, closet to basement CD for 40 years. Looking for Ft. Wash. / Oxen Hill MD CD/TV to get help & just to chat with.
Ricki F. (MD-2137)

MICHELLE LYNN GERALD (MD) (#53)
TS, 31. I am a shy and caring soul who desires to correspond with anyone in the TV/TS community. I am just beginning the long trek toward the complete adoption of a permanent feminine lifestyle. I would therefore be very grateful for any kind words and/or assistance provided along the way. I promise to quickly respond to any (and all) inquiries I may receive.
Michelle Gerald, P.O. Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

Kate G. MD-1652

KATE G. (MD) (#55)
WM, 5'8", 155, 42. Living in DC area with supportive wife; comfortable with myself. For the last three years I've been perfecting the "look" in front of a camera. I want to attend a P-town outing and maybe a local group meeting, but am cautious and have yet to get far from home.
It's time for a little adventure but I'd like some company. I hope there are other crossdressers with a similar attitude. I'm discrete but have a good sense of humor. Please write and send photo. I'll reciprocate.
Kate G. (MD-1652)

DIANE P. (MD) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, TV, 40's. Interested in music (plays guitar, banjo, keyboard), woodworking, restoring old cars, computers. Also enjoys correspondence.
DS Associates, P.O. Box 194, Joppa, MD 21085

DAPHNE (MD) (#54)
TV, 26, tall, young, slim. Interests: Books, "now" music. Interested in corresponding with other curious TV's. I have only shared my secret with sympathetic SO's, and long to communicate with other folks about this. Discreet and curious.
R. Totale, P.O. Box 482, Annapolis, MD 21401

Lola MD-1831

LOLA (MD) (#53)
Member: "Gender Identity Outreach Center USA", "My Choice"
Attractive SW TV, active in the TV/TS community. Currently seeking new TV/TS friends. "I enjoy all things feminine, and helping my TV/TS friends improve their "femme" appearance, as I am a professional makeup artist and costume designer.
Lola, c/o Gender Identity Outreach Center, Box 133, Westminster, MD 21157

Nancy Ann B. MD-2046

NANCY ANN B. (MD) (#54)
Member: DCEA, WBA, Tri-Ess
5'9", 160, brown eyes & hair. Have cross-dressed since I was 12. Now go out to meetings, dinners, & have danced in night clubs. My whole family knows how I feel. Have five real sisters, no brothers, & all have said they accept me. Write & exchange photos with sisters throughout the country. Please write!
Bob Burdick, 3511 Forest Edge Dr 1-D, Silver Spring, MD 20906

MARIAN BEDDILL (MD) (#54)
53, 6', engineer. Interests: Computer use, travel, mapping, sailing, dancing, long curly hair, & heels. Lifelong TV, now out in selected environments, but not at work. Travel a lot on the job. On JSS BBS.
Marian B. (MD-2305)

VIRGINIA (220- 246-)

Angela Carol A. VA-0736

ANGELA CAROL ASH (VA) (#53)
Member: Tri-Ess (Sigma Epsilon Chapter)
Participant: P-Town '85, Joyce Dewhurst '84/'85, Tri-Ess Sigma Epsilon (Chattanooga) '87, '88-'89.
Awards: "Best Dressed" award, Sept. '84 Joyce Dewhurst Be All Weekend (Cleveland '87)
Blond, blue eyes, 6'0, 49, 130, dressing since age 12. Very active member Tri-Ess. Broad minded, interested in other TVs in VA, NC, TN, and KY. Friendly, professionally employed, enjoy social events, dancing, and fancy clothes.
Angela Carol Ash (VA-0736)

SUSAN REYNOLDS (VA) (#56)
Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess
Participant: P-town and Poconos gatherings
Reasonably passable. Love sleek clothing. Adore being VERY buxom when at home. I write to a number of sisters, and especially enjoy writing to those sisters who like being buxom. Am very happy and content with

myself as a woman.

Susan Reynolds, Box 11160, Alexandria, VA 22312 (VA-0017)

CHRISTINA S. (VA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 40s, 6', 185. Enjoy photography, big band music, collectable records, cooking, and going out dressed whenever possible. Also like to correspond with other sisters. Forming new Tri-Ess group in Richmond, VA area. Would like to attend Holiday En Femme or similar large event.

Christina Smith, P.O. Box 34621, Richmond, VA 23234 (VA-1868)

LYNN H. (VA) (#54)

Tall, slightly overweight. "I enjoy cooking, games, and meeting people who want to enjoy positive aspects of life."

Lynn H. (VA-1318)

Kemberly C. VA-2300

KEMBERLY CARLSON (N VA) (#55)

Member: Delta Chi

DWM, 5'11", 50, size 18, live in DC area with SO. Comfortable with self, ventures out dressed last 3 years. Love to pose in front of camera, water skiing, boating, and stained glass. Enjoy all aspects of femme lifestyle. Would like to write & meet others who enjoy crossdressing. I have a sense of humor, and can laugh at myself & enjoy life. Will respond quickly to all inquiries I receive.

Kem Carlson, P.O. Box 2146, Reston, VA 22090 (VA-2300)

LINDA COULTER (VA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Brown-eyed blonde, good sense of humor. Am interested in gourmet cooking, music, photography, female fashions. Will correspond with other TV's.

Linda C. (VA-0703)

JANE A. (VA) (#54)

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing

DWM TV, 6'2", 240, 38, brown hair, blue eyes. I used to live in Salem, MA, and enjoyed the Tiffany Club and their outings. I've been living in Roanoke VA the past two years & I miss my TV/TS friends. I am sending out an SOS! Please write!

Jane A. (VA-2169)

SHELIA W. (VA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

6', 180, great eyes & legs, work out regularly. Enjoys woodworking, outdoor activities, meeting people, reading. I am interested in corresponding and exchanging information and stories with others.

Shelia W. (VA-2276)

Robin M. VA-2351

ROBIN MARTIN (VA) (#56)

SWM, 35, 5'7", 155. Enjoys all things creative and artistic. Likes decorating, working out and dressing for the total look whenever possible. Would like correspondence and photo swaps with others who enjoy and understand this "special" lifestyle.

Robin Martin, P.O. Box 955, Salem, VA 24153 (VA-2351)

DIANE PARIS (N VA) (#55)

Hetero TV, 5'9", 45. Loves to go out dressed and does often. Enjoys shopping, dinner, strolling, movies, and at-home dinner parties at home with very supportive and understanding wife. Love to correspond and to meet, especially with wives/girlfriends. Travels extensively. Please write soon so we can have fun together.

Diane Paris, P.O. Box 478, Oakton, VA 22124

Kay G. VA-0323

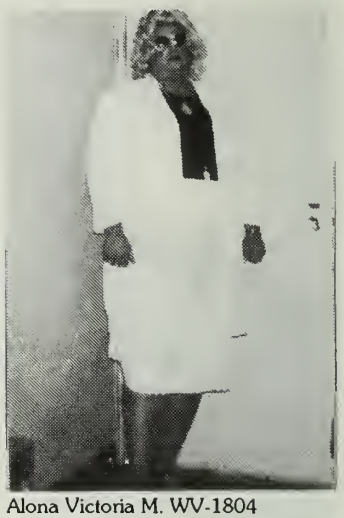
KAY GOULD (VA) (#56)

Very feminine and totally passable. Enjoy all aspects of feminine lifestyle. Strong personality with ultra feminine tastes. Enjoy fine music, dining, theatre, and high fashion. "I date extensively, and travel heavily throughout the US. I appreciate male escorts in most cities. Am very accomplished in all feminine ways but am demanding in personality. I also write for several national publications."

Kay Gould, Box 8562, Alexandra, VA 22306 (VA-0323)

Sharon M. PA02326

WEST VIRGINIA (246- 268-)



Alona Victoria M. WV-1804

ALONA VICTORIA MILLER (WV) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess, IXE, Cross-Port, Trans-Pitt

Participant: IFGE 1988

6', MWM, Heterosexual. I enjoy building plastic models, miniature war games, sewing, cooking, and improving my feminine image. I am a full-time clergy-person and would be willing to help any of my "sisters" and "brothers" accept themselves as persons of worth.

Alona V. Miller (WV-1804)

Kaye L. WV-2435

KAYE LORRAINE LIGHTNER (WV) (#55)

Member: OPERN, WVTV

Lifelong CD, just getting into CD/TS community. Interests: Sci Fi, classical music, films (history, gossip, cult flicks). Am better than average cartoonist and portrait artist. Wife accepting - sometimes enthusiastic. My wife is interested in corresponding with spouses of other CD's. I am

presently employed in helping profession. Hope one day to get into the field of gender counseling. TV/TS group forming in Kayawha Valley area. Write for details.

Kaye L. (WV-2435)

PRISCILLA WENTWORTH (WV) (#53)

Member: Crossroads

MWM TV, 5'10", 170. Retired from Foreign Service. Widely travelled, broad interests. Likes to correspond with other TVs/TSs.

P.M. Wentworth, Box 687, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

DAVENE JOHNSON (WV) (#54)

45. Have been confused about myself & my feelings since I was 3. Just recently accepted my feminine side. My wife cannot accept my feminine side. I would like to find employment in another city & state so as not to cause any further hurt to my family. Anyone who might help me in obtaining decent employment elsewhere please write. Desperate!

Davene Johnson, P.O. Box 430, Fort Ashby, WV 26719 (WV-2329)

Tabetha Ann T. WV-2453

TABETHA ANN TAMBOR (WV) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, CrossPort, Trans WV

hetero CD, early 20's, 6', 170. Enjoys music (Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, B-52's and the Communands sound great to me), fantasy (Heinlein, Foster, Anthony), raising tropical fish, collecting coins, Christianity, photography and daydreaming. "I've always enjoyed dressing up, but just recently had the chance to go out. I will correspond with anyone, especially GG's around my age. Please write to me."

Tabetha T. (WV-2453)

NORTH CAROLINA
(270- 289-)

GERI McGREGOR (NC) (#54)

Divorced, white, career person, 5'4", 140, 39, red hair, blue/green eyes. Life-long crossdresser, just coming out and in need of help with makeup, etc. Possess very strong TS feelings. Love all things feminine. Other likes include cats, plants, music, and intellectual conversation not to mention long walks and romantic evenings. Seek correspondence and meetings from like-minded sisters and women. Desire companionship from a tall, very understanding professional male.

Geri Mc. (NC-2136)

Frances T. NC-1245

FRANCES T. (NC) (#54)

Member: ETVC, Tri-Ess

Participant: Coming Together, Be All

Late 30's, 5'7", 140. I pass very well and enjoy shopping and chatting with store clerks, manicurists, hair dressers, etc. who know me. I flew dressed to my last convention and look forward to doing the same next year. I also enjoy browsing through women's magazines and dress catalogues. I am not keen on written correspondence.

Frances T. (NC-1245)

CATLIN MICHELLE WHITFORD (NC) (#54)

SWM CD, 6'2", 38, 215, blond, blue eyes. Seeking correspondence from all CD's with particular interest in NC, SC, VA. Seeking tender, understanding S.O. Possible marriage? Send picture, and will reply with same.

C. Whitford, P.O. Box 733, Bridgeston, NC 28519

Sandy J. NC-0906

SANDY JOHNSON (NC) (#57)

5'7", 140 lbs. Interested in corresponding with other TVs, TSs to achieve a better understanding and acceptance of our community.

Sandy J. (NC-0906)

Melody Dianne A. NC-1930

MELODY DIANNE ALLEN (NC) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, single, 5'7", 125, light brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys music, photography, billiards. Would love to correspond and/or meet other TV's, TS's, etc., for friendship, fun, what have you. Can entertain in my home, or travel.

Melody Allen, P.O. Box 14683, Raleigh, NC 27620 (NC-1930)

BRENDA W. (NC) (#55)

SWM, late 30's, brown hair, blue eyes. Life-long crossdresser attractive and sincere by very shy. I would like to correspond with other TV's and share our experiences. Would love to meet a really pretty, passable TV, TS or an understanding, caring woman. Please share your femme side with me.

Brenda W. (NC-2301)

RACHEL MORGAN (NC) (#55)

Almost married WM, 23. Beginning to discover the joys of integrating the positive aspects of being a woman into my male persona. Not comfortable with "going public" yet, but I am comfortable with being a TV. Enjoy sci-fi, especially Bradbury, Clarke & Herbert. Love music esp. Pink Floyd. Would like to correspond with other couples who have overcome the problems inherent with being a TV in a relationship, and those who have developed a mature balanced approach to crossdressing.

Rachel M. (NC-2272)

Suzanne B. NC-2414

SUZANNE ELIZABETH BISHOP (NC) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Tall, slender, blue-eyed blond, enjoys yoga, jogging, reading, music, conversation and the arts. Although relatively closeted for family and business reasons, I do go out from time to time with no problems. Would like to meet other CD's in my area for friendship and fun.

Suzanne B. (NC-2414)

NANCY L. (NC) (#56)

DWM, 42, 5'10, 150, blonde hair, hazel eyes, life long CD'er. Enjoys music, dancing, swimming in my pool and shopping for anything feminine. Would like to correspond and meet other CD/TV/TS's for a friendship and sharing all feminine interests. I'm looking for a special person who is honest, loving and caring to share a home with and let our femininity grow together. Will answer all who write and send photo.

Nancy L. (NC-2504)

Elaine R. NC-2304

ELAINE ROBBINS (NC) (#54)

5'7", 155, single. Enjoys good conversation, reading, music, travel, and the outdoors. "I love dressing as a girl, but it's been lonely. Please write. I'd love to have understanding friends.

Elaine Robbins, P.O. Box 5904, Hanover Center, Wilmington, NC 28403-0879 (NC-2304)

KAREN HAYNES (NC) (#55)

M-F pre-op TS, 28, 5' 10", 155, red hair, green eyes. Interests include architecture, photography, music, and just having fun. "I'm in the process of transition, and looking for, and willing to give non-sexual support to persons of the TS/CD/TS sector. Really want to start support groups and information exchange in the Greensboro-Raleigh, NC area."

Ms. karen Haynes, P.O. Box 1954, Greensboro, NC 27404-0954 1-919-299-6925 (NC-2506)

SOUTH CAROLINA (290- 299-)

BOBBI RENEE LONG (SC) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Age 54, mostly public, passable CD. Married. Love to shop and go clubbing dressed.

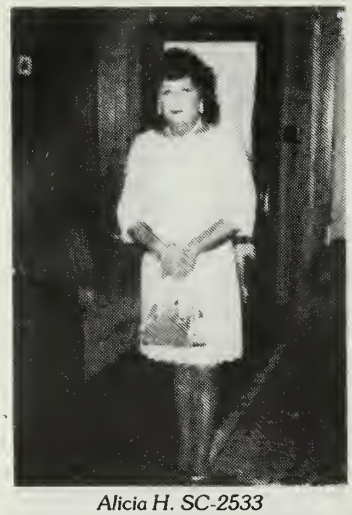
Bobbi Renee Long, P.O. Box 210276, Columbia, SC 29221

JACKIE C. (SC) (#54)

Member: Kappa Beta

Married, 48, 3 years college, occupation - transportation. My interests are my home & my family. Have understanding wife, but have not been out in public as yet.

Jackie C. (SC-2338)



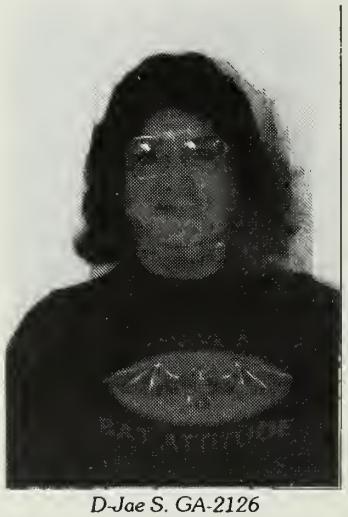
Alicia H. SC-2533

ALISHA MICHELLE H. (SC) (#56)

MWM, 5'5", 140, mid 50's. Interests: Swimming, fishing, photography, dressing. "Have been CD since age 10. Have never had any contact with any sisters. Need help with makeup & voice. Would like to correspond with other sisters in my area."

Alisha H. (SC-2533)

GEORGIA (300- 319-)



D-Jae S. GA-2126

D-JAE SHERE (GA) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon, GIC

MWM, early 40's, 5'8", 180, travel much. Love to meet people, make friends, correspond, etc. Technical career, likes aviation, ham radio, outdoors, etc. Goes out occasionally, dresses often (away from home). Wife is great lady, but doesn't accept/approve yet. Love to hear from y'all.

Jae Shere, P.O. Box 89, Lithia Springs, GA 30057 (GA-2126)

LINDA W. (GA) (#55)

Member: Tri Ess

Age 31, married - wife is supportive but has resisted spending time with Linda fully dressed. I'm a lifelong TV, but have only begun venturing out in full dress during the last 2 years - and I love it!! Interests include running, hiking, reading (everything), Tai Chi, Jazz and blues music. The genie is out of the bottle, & this girl is here to stay! Love to all.

Linda W. (GA-1486)

Rachel C. GA-2016

RACHEL CUMMINS (GA) (#53)

Member: Dixie Belles - Chattanooga

I have been enjoying life for 45 years. Have raised three children with the help of an exceptional spouse. When not traveling, Rachel can be found at the Ham radio station, playing weird programmer on one of my 20 odd personal computers or dancing '50s style at the local pub. Rachel and spouse have been on several outings and hope to go on more. I would like to correspond with other sisters and perhaps visit others while on business.

Rachel Cummins, P.O. Box 80294, Conyers, GA 30208-8254

Diane K. GA-1298

DIANNE KENDALL (GA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Life-long TV, willowy, sensuous, very feminine with extensive, fashionable wardrobe including much precious lingerie - mostly pink - and heels for every outfit and occasion. Wants to meet, correspond with and talk to TVs, TSs, and GGs who love and appreciate the feminine as much as I do. Also write stories about boys being sweetly dressed as girls by girls. Let's be girls together in Atlanta or elsewhere.

Dianne Kendall, 3220-A Post Woods Dr, Atlanta, GA 30339 (404) 988-0667

KATHY ANN KELLY (GA) (#54)

6', brown hair/eyes, nice legs. Loves to dress, wants to be as feminine as possible. Needs companionship.

Kathy Ann Kelly, P.O. Box 957265, Duluth, GA 30136-9522

Jamie L. GA-2286

JAMIE L. (GA) (#54)

Bi, 31, 6', 200, red hair, fair skin, single. Enjoys computers, sports, dressing up, shopping, being feminine, video-making. "Looking for people to teach me more about cross-dressing. Even though I am a big person, I have passed in public. Race or gender is not important. What's inside of you is.

Jamie L., P.O. Box 846, Oakwood, GA 30566 (GA-2286)

HEATHER C. (GA) (#55)

5'7", 135, 19, brunette, very passable, great legs. "Would like to correspond with or meet locally with other TV's and TS's. I love sexy clothes and lingerie. I will answer all.

Heather C. (GA-2395)

FLORIDA (320- 340-)

Petra D. FL-1314

PETRA D. (FL) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon Chapter

Mid-thirties, married to supportive wife with one daughter. I have recently come out after joining the local Tri-Ess chapter, but believe in the importance of sustaining the wider community of CD's and TG's. I have just moved to north Florida and would be interested in communicating with others in my area. My interests include photography, computers, soccer, wearing pretty clothes, and projecting my inner femininity outwardly.

Petra D., P.O. Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315

Linda S. FL-0938

LINDA SCHREIBER (SE FL) (#56)

Married hetero TV. Professional. 6', 62, size 18, reddish hair. Loves shopping, quiet dinners, long talks, picnics, theater, and classical music. "Willing to be - and looking for - a dear friend to share life's experiences and to meet en femme from time to time. Still need help passing. Wife knows and accepts, but doesn't approve. Yet, being Linda totally fulfills and enriches me. Let's correspond.

Linda Schreiber, 4700 NW 7 St #235, Miami, FL 33126 (FL-0938)

Cynthia S. FL-1848

CYNTHIA SILVA (FL) (#57)

SWM, hetero CD, 60's, 5'9", 200 lbs.

Member: Tri-Ess

Interests: Working with my computer and amateur radio, VHF mobile, dressing whenever possible. Would like to meet or correspond with other hetero CDs, TVs, and understanding GGs for femme talk, improving my femme personality and appearance, and have photo sessions. Would like photo but not necessary.

Cynthia Silva, Box 13737, Tampa, FL 33681-3737

DINA E. STONE (FL) (#53)

Pre-op M-F TS, 38, 5'6", 150. Extremely trustworthy, patient, and methodical; architectural professional. "My reclusive half-life in Florida is burdensome; I need relocation to a less restrictive environment. (Love Atlanta.) I like: honest people of any gender, lifestyle, or race; non-destructive fun, children, art, music, and my femininity.

Dina Stone (FL-1946)

KRISSY (E FL) (#53)

46, 5'10", considered very attractive, progressing into she-male status, very sensitive, caring, neat. Professional. Seeking correspondence and possible meetings with all especially interested in she-males and serious TVs in the Vero Beach area. Please send photo. TV education and sharing of feelings a plus. Someday I would like to form a club & possibly publish a TV publication.

Krissy B. (FL-2067)

MS DALE LARSON (C FL) (#54)

Member: Central FL Sisters (President)

Heterosexual post-op M-F TS. 55, 5'11". Would like to hear from all crossdressers in Florida.

Ms Dale Larson, 11 Westchester Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34744

VANESSA THOMAS (C FL) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess Orlando, Central FL Sisters

Married, 40, can't dress at home because of older children - but do attend meetings out of area. Getting a better wardrobe and can pass a little. Would like to be fully a woman. Would like to meet other TV/TSs. Will answer all letters.

E.B., P.O. Box 1076, Venice, FL 34284-1076

Robin B. FL-0611

ROBIN B. (C FL) (#54)

Member: Tiffany Club, Emerald City

MWM hetero, tall, slender. Interested in most everything. Wife totally despises TV/TS scene. I would love to hear from others who "confessed" to wife after 20 years.

Robin B. (FL-0611)

Dawn Y. FL-1393

DAWN YOUNG (SE FL) (#54)

MWM hetero TV, 40, 6'1", 170. Loves everything feminine from short skirts to long dresses and heels. Would enjoy meeting and corresponding with others.

Dawn Young, P.O. Box 1355, Vero Beach, FL 32961

BETH PHILLIPS (FL) (#54)

WM TV, 5'11", 175, 57. Wish to contact & correspond with other TV's & TS's in the Tampa Bay area.

Beth P. (FL-2185)

Samantha B. FL-2288

SAMANTHA B. (SE FL) (#55)

MWM, 46, 5'11", 175. would like to meet & correspond with other TV/TS's. Extensive wardrobe. Crossdresser for years with supportive wife. Would like to start attending events & become more involved.

Samantha B., P.O. Box 651024, Tropic Branch, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Samie B. (FL-1793

SAMIE DIANNE B. (SW FL) (#56)

Widower, 63, 5'8", 160. Crossdress whenever possible, & wear lingerie all the time. I have been a closet cross-dresser for 30 years with 2 wives and several women friends. I wore the dresses and they slacks. Now I want out of the closet.

Samie B. (FL-1793)

JACQUELYN NOWLING (FL) (#54)

Member: Sigma Epsilon

Mid-50's, 6', 180. Interests: Wine making, reading, & being "Jacque". Travel FL extensively and would like to write & meet all sisters possible. Wife is very supportive and active in wives support group in Sigma Epsilon.

Jacquelyn N. (FL-2063)

COLLEEN O. (S FL) (#54)

Single, 6'1", 51, 170, living with female who is helpful and understanding. Enjoys tennis, travel, feminine things, dining out, dancing, meeting interesting people. "I want to perfect my feminine image and personality. I want to become passable in public. I am hetero, and happy in present relationship.

Colleen O. (FL-2336)

Donna W. FL-2481

DONNA WELLS (W FL) (#55)

SWM hetero TV, passable, professional, travel extensively. My interests? Much the same as many other sophisticated Southern ladies! Fashion and style, dressing up, shopping, dining, travel, etc. Especially dressing up! I keep up with world events, do a little photography, and enjoy conversation, too. Would like to meet with others who also love to dress. Please drop me a line, and a photo would be appreciated.

Donna W. (FL-2481)

ALABAMA (350- 369-)

ANNE ARMSTRONG (AL) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

70, 5'10". Still closeted and would appreciate letters. Will reply quickly.

Anne Armstrong, P.O. Box 7331-A, Birmingham, AL 35253

RENEE' P. (AL) (#55)

Married TV, 35, dressed from earliest memories, professional. Interests: Art, travel, entertainment. Interested in corresponding with others with hopes of eventually meeting.

Renee' P. (AL-2535)

TENNESSEE (370- 384-)

Samantha T. TN-0934

SAMANTHA T. (W TN) (#56)

Member: SLGF, Dixie Belles

39+ years young, 5'8", use own long hair, very active in womanly role, deaf, taught how to speak & lip read. Interests: Fashions, arts, collecting anything which attracts my attention, my lovely house. I am hoping to make some friends in Western/Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and neighboring states. I am living close to "land between the lakes" national recreational park. Will answer all letters.

Samantha T., RT 2 Box 103B, Buchanan, TN 38222 (TN-0934)

Crystal Dawn B. TN-1701

CRYSTAL DAWN BOYD (TN) (#53)

Pre-op, M-F TS. In prison, still trying to get out, now going back up for (the 3rd time) parole in Feb. '91; could make release but still need assistance. Especially need any assistance with employment/housing parole plan. Current parole plans for the Nashville or possible Memphis areas, but would even consider surrounding areas or out of state... but would need contacts soon. Would also like to write sisters near here for info concerning local gender clinic, TV/TS support groups, electrolysis recommendations and businesses which cater to us... not to mention needed new friendships.

C.D. Boyd, #101461, 7466 Centennial Place Extended, Nashville, TN 37219

SANDRA B. (TN) (#55)

MWM, 50's, 6', 170, blue eyes, considered very attractive, professional pilot. Interests are classical music, opera, art, travel, tennis, collecting antiques. Avid audiophile. I wish to meet & correspond with all who are sensitive, understanding, and who love to dress.

Sandra B. (TN-1640)

Tammi M. TN-1732

TAMMI MCINTYRE (E TN) (#56)

Member: Crossroads

Participant: 'Coming Together', 'Be All', Fantasia Fair

Tall, vivacious, fun-loving lady. "I love to shop. Have done some public speaking. I also love to go out dining and dancing. I would like to hear from others interested in our culture. I will try to respond to all contacts."

Tammi McIntyre, 5800 Central Ave Pike #4509, Knoxville, TN 37912 (TN-1732)

MISSISSIPPI (386- 396-)

LESLIE GILL (MS) (#54)

Member: Beta Chi, Tri Delta Chi

MWM, 33, CD since 6, married with understanding and supportive wife. Wants to find other crossdressers in Mississippi. Will answer all correspondence.

Leslie G. (MS-2138)

Leslie G. MS-2138

Barbara Ann B. MS-1945

BARBARA ANN B. (MS) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess, Crossroads

Participant: Texas Tea Party

MWM 5'11", 170, brown eyes/hair. Love to go out dressed, passable at times - will answer all & look forward to making many new friends.

Barbara B. (MS-1945)

KENTUCKY (403- 427-)

PATTI (KY) (#54)

MWM, 34. Could be passable with good makeup job. Good figure. Interested in music, dance, psychology, and vegetarian cooking. I would like to correspond with other TV/TSs for friendship, support and information exchange.

Patti (KY-2035)

HOLLEY MARIE H. (KY) (#53)

WM Pre-op M-F TS, 5'9", 150, brown hair & eyes. Living full time as a woman. Enjoys art, theater, bicycles, sports cars, travel. Also likes shopping, sexy clothes, and all types of music. Wants to meet & correspond with TV/TSs, and find a romantic gentleman.

Holley Marie H. (KY-2026)

Linda Buten KY-2001

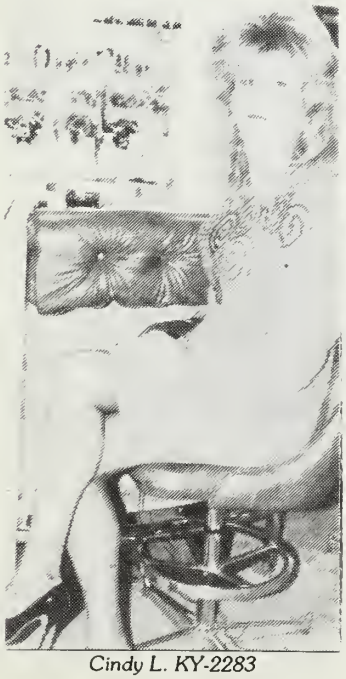
LINDA BUTEN (KY) (#54)

Member: Cross-Port, IFGE Board of Directors

Participant: 'Be All', 'Coming Together'

MWM TV, 37, 6', 180. I enjoy meeting & corresponding with anyone interested. I've been in public for years and my adventurous nature has given me a complete understanding of myself and others. My wife and children know, understand, and love Linda as an extension of my jovial personality. You can usually find me at the IFGE convention & the Be All weekends. I also enjoy dating tall, well-mannered gentlemen who know how to treat a lady to the finer things in life.

Linda B. (KY-2001)



Cindy L. KY-2283

CINDY LEE (KY) (#54)

MWM TV, 6', 160, 44, blond, blue eyes. Enjoy spending my free time being dressed as feminine as possible. Non-supportive wife, although she knows of my desires. I am a closet TV, and would like to come out. My TV feelings are getting harder to fight and corresponding with someone who understands would be helpful. Would like to join a TV group in the KY area.

Cindy Lee, P.O. Box 20256, Louisville, KY 40220-0256 (KY-2283)

Stephanie B. KY-2328

STEPHANIE B. (C KY) (#55)

MWM, 39, 5'7", 145, lifelong TV/TS, wife very unaccepting. Ready to start out of the closet. "I'm finally ready to pursue my desires to be a full time woman. Love all things feminine. Interested in corresponding with TS's & TV's. Educated, responsible person who desires to meet others in similar situation.

Stephanie B. (KY-2328)

OHIO (434- 457-)

Catherine A. OH-1770

CATHERINE L. ANDREWS (OH) (#56)

Member: Transpitt

Participant: Be All, Lambda Ball

MWM CD, 5'7", 170, 45. As a life-long CD I have accepted myself for "who I am". I enjoy meeting new people and corresponding. Deeply committed to the IFGE. I enjoy outreach programs and working for the good of our entire community.

Catherine A. (OH-1770)

Diane F. OH-1339

DIANE K. FERGUSON (OH) (#54)

Member: CrossPort

5'7", 135, 31, blonde hair, blue eyes, single - never married. I am a serious pre-operative TS, desiring to correspond/meet, and discuss items and topics of mutual interest. I love skiing, dancing, movies, and going to nice restaurants.

Diane K. Ferguson, P.O. Box 4617, Maineville, OH 45039-4617

Patricia J. OH-1225

PATRICIA JOHNSON (OH) (#53)

32-year-old CD, WM, 5'10", 175. Love silk, satin, and all things feminine. "Would like to correspond, swap photos, and possibly meet others interests in TS and TV. Letter with photo gets mine and immediate response."

Patricia Johnson, Box 731, Norwalk, OH 44857

Michelle M. OH-0954

MICHELLE M. (S OH) (#58)

Member: Paradise, Cross-Port, Alpha Omega

Hetero married crossdresser, 5'9", 170, educated, friendly. Married 15 years to an "A" wife who accepts and helps. An original organizer of Paradise. Enjoys crossdressing, hi-heels, "girl talk", and picture taking sessions. Needs help to enhance feminine voice. Interested in meeting other married crossdressers in SW Ohio.

Michelle M. (OH-0954)

Cher OH-2083

CHER (OH) (#54)

40's, 150, 5'10", sense of humor, intelligent, likes good food & wines.

Cher (OH-2083)

RHONDA JEAN ECK (OH) (#53)

MWM, 37, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, has crossdressed since 16, but still in closet. Interests: golf, reading, crossdressing (naturally). Looking for open, honest communication with other sisters to provide mutual sup-

port.

Miss Rhonda Jean Eck, P.O. Box 292844, Kettering, OH 45429

Michelle A. OH-2025

MICHELLE ANTHONY (OH) (#54)

5'9", 159, dark hair & eyes. Enjoys music, dancing. Recently came into my own as a TV, but have been dressing for years. I'm really a novice looking for exchange correspondence, pictures and to join a group. Would like to meet TV/TSs in Ohio area. Reply w/photo to get mine.

Michelle Anthony, P.O. Box 322442, Columbus, OH 43232

Jaimie D. OH-2140

JAIMIE DOUGLAS (OH) (#54)

SWM TV, 5'10", 160, 24. I am interested in corresponding with all TV's and possibly getting together with crossdressers in the Central Ohio area. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Jaimie D. (OH-2140)

TONI H. (OH) (#53)

Single, 6'1", 195, 58. Closet executive TV wants to meet same with understanding wife for dressing, dinner and conversation. If you have a private place within 50 miles of Columbus, you have a new friend.

Toni H. (OH-1066)

Amanda L. OH-1670

AMANDA LYNN (OH) (#55)

Member. Paradise Club

SWM Bi-TV, still in closet and need friends. Would especially like female to help and build a lasting relationship. I smoke and am a social drinker. I bowl, golf, and enjoy the quietness of fishing. I am interested in hormone treatment. Enjoy all fem clothing, but get into looking slutty (sorry). PLEASE, no photo collectors. Only sincere people need to reply.

Amanda L. (OH-1670)

Camile M. OH-1721

CAMILE M. (NE OH) (#56)

Hetero TV, 47, 5'10", 160, med brown hair, works as a salesperson. Enjoys athletics, golf, reading, movies, good food, travel, & shopping. "Still in closet. Want to meet CD's & TV's & TS's to go out with and share myself with. Love everything feminine. Would like to meet a couple to help in making me more feminine.

Camile M. (OH-1721)

JOANNE M. (OH) (#55)

6'0", 155, 35, blonde hair, blue eyes, TV with very strong TS desires. Interests: Sports, feminine fashions, and learning more about being a woman. Would like to correspond with and possibly meet pre- and post-ops, and also sympathetic females to help me further my feminine feelings.

JoAnne M. (OH-2212)

Laura W. OH-2406

LAURA WHITE (NE OH) (#56)

Member. Paradise

MWM, hetero TV, 6'2", 175, blue eyes, 40, very feminine appearing. Enjoys aerobics, travel, reading. "I have been out of the closet for 3 years. Prefer to dress as a career business lady. Would love to meet with TV's in NE OH area. Will correspond with all who share similar interests. Please include photo.

Laura W. (OH-2406)

LAURA STEVENS (N OH) (#56)

SWM, 45, college educated professional. Enjoys restoration of antique cars, jazz, walks on the beach, good food & travel. Seeking friendship, photo exchange, correspondence and possible meetings with TV's & TS's who can pass in public. Long range relationship with the right person is a possibility.

Laura S. (OH-2407)

CHERYL VONDRESS (E OH) (#55)

DWM CD, 5'8", 165, brown hair, and blue eyes. TS orientation. Interests: All things feminine, sewing, and photography. Plan to seek SRS, but I have a long way to go. I need help with voice and obtaining hormones (or finding a doctor that will help.) I would like to hear from anyone interested in me as a female.

Cheryl V. (OH-2360)

GLORIA C. (SW OH) (#57)

MWM, 47, 5'10", 220, blue eyes, brown hair. Interests: computers, flying & building aircraft, amateur radio, square dancing, scuba diving, & forced crossdressing. Want to meet sincere friends, GG's & TV's for friendship. Non-supportive wife. Want to meet aggressive people, very eager for acceptance.

Gloria C. (OH-1993)

Tina E. OH-2424

TINA E. (SW OH) (#56)

Single TV, 5'10", 145, early 30's. I love music, theatre, photography and sports. I love dressing pretty and feminine. I especially love high heels. I'm looking to correspond with TV's, TS's and women who love feminine attire. I've finally accepted myself and I am happy to be a TV. I'm sincere and caring. I'd love to be your girlfriend, so write me and maybe we could get together.

Tina E. (OH-2424)

MARILYN CRISTI (NE OH) (#56)

Member. Paradise Club, IFGE

Participant: Chrprsn 1991 'Be All'

Married, 6', 210, B.A. psychology and theatre, graduate studies in counseling and sociology. Interests: Circulating in public en femme, guest speaking on behalf of our "paraculture", dancing, tennis, music, old movies and sitcoms.

"Am researching the possibility of EOE rights for CD's. Need everyone's help. Please send a brief summary of the circumstances under which you were either hired, fired, or discriminated against because of your cross-dressing. If self-employed, describe your own hiring practices. All info submitted in any personal detail will be respectfully held in strictest confidence. Send return address and conditions for future correspondence.

Marilyn Cristi, P.O. Box 33496, Cleveland, OH 44133 (OH-1919)

INDIANA (463- 479-)

GLORIA LYNN GIBSON (IN) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

SWM, tall, auburn hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys camping, hiking, reading, golfing, movies. I'm hoping to meet an understanding and sympa-

thetic woman. Also look forward to meeting and sharing girl talk with 'sisters'. Wish to explore my femininity more deeply. Just coming out and looking for mutual support.

Gloria G. (IN-1480)

RITA O'BRIEN (IN) (#53)

Member: CGS, IXE

Participant: 'Be All', 'Coming Together'

SW M-F TS, 49, 6', 190, brown hair, blue eyes. Strong TS orientation, sharing & caring, willing to reach out to others. Corresponds across the country, loves camping, reading, C&W music, travel. Try to answer all letters.

Rita O. (IN-1183)

Michelle M. IN-1696

MICHELLE MICHAELS (C IN) (#56)

MWM TV, 40, 6'1", 200, 40, 3 children & supportive wife. Spent 25+ years in the closet with guilt, shame, & confusion. Drank & drugged to kill the pain of living. Clean & sober for 9 years. Today's struggles are centered around acceptance, self esteem and balance. Interested in opening dialogue & forming friendships with anyone on the same spiritual journey.

Michelle Michaels, Box 8091, Richmond, IN 47375 (IN-1696)

DEBORAH ANNE K. (IN) (#54)

Member: IXE

MWM TV, 48, 5'9", 150. Inexperienced but learning how to present my other self. Need training on makeup, care of wigs. Limited travel due to job, wish to meet others for support.

A. Kinsey, P.O. Box 550, Roanoke, IN 46783

Yvonne C. IN-1009

YVONNE COOK (IN)

IFGE Director of Operations, IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Finance Committee

Member: Chi Chapter, CrossPort, IXE, TGIC, ETVC.

Participant: Chicago Spring Fling, "Be All", "Coming Together".

Friendly and sincere individual who enjoys all people who are involved in gender issues.

Yvonne C. (IN-1009)

Arlena S. IN-1466

ARLENA MARIA STARCHILD (IN) (#54)

Member: IXE, Cross-Port, IPA

I am a bi-gendered person who wants to correspond with and meet with other sisters to discuss our mutual feminine desires, needs and aspirations. I am a very caring, understanding and loving sister who will help any and all sisters. I am experienced in all aspects of being my feminine personality. I will answer letters very promptly.

Ms Arlena Maria Starchild, P.O. Box 47103, Indianapolis, IN 46247-0103

Dan R. IN-9999

DAN RILEY (IN)

Member: IXE, IFGE Staff

Female CD, 40. Sincere, caring individual. Interested in corresponding with other female-to-male CD's/TS's. Enjoys hiking, dancing, T'ai Chi Ch'uan, talking with others and helping others "coming out".

Dan Riley, (IN-9999)

Jeaninne D. IN-2100

JEANINNE D. (IN) (#53)

Member: Cross-Port, IXE

Participant: 'Be All'

Sensitive and caring person, good education. Somewhat macho background and occupation makes crossdressing even more delightful. Enjoys music, sports, humor, travel, dancing, occasional shopping, and most of all crossdressing. I crossdress for the sheer fun, relaxation and delight of it all. Feel more lighthearted, gentle and fun-loving when 'en femme'. No guilt feelings at all. Enjoy meeting and corresponding with other CD's. Photo appreciated.

Jeaninne D. (IN-2100)

KIMBERLY ANN B. (IN) (#54)

Member: IXE

MWM hetero TG, 5'9", 40's, perfect size 12, passable. Kim very much loves to be dressed and enjoys nice feminine clothing. Also enjoys good friends. Have very supportive wife. Enjoy going out shopping, and to plays, and the theater as Kim. Would like to hear from others across the country. May be slow answering, but will answer all.

Kimberly B. (IN-1032)

Lindsey S. IN-2358

LINDSEY S. (C IN) (#55)

53, 5'8", 155. Loves playing theatre organ, flower arranging, dining out, running 25 miles a week to keep slim, reading, & travel. Married to loving wife, 3 sons, 2 grandchildren, 2 1/2 years to go til retirement, then the fun begins!

Lindsey S. (IN-2358)

VANESSA K. WILL (IN) (#54)

Member: SLGF, Double Image

CD, 5'9", slender, blue eyes, blond, passable in public, very discreet & expect same. Interests: Lingerie, corsetry, high heels, enjoy role playing & shopping with girlfriend. S IN, S IL, & W KY, can travel, looking for someone to share experiences with. Also interested in meeting real women interested in CD's.

Vanessa W. (IN-1166)

BARBARA ELLEN BERTRAND (S IN) (#54)

Transsexual, beginning on path to

becoming a woman. 5'3", 135, brown hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys Roman and Greek art and archaeology, ancient civilizations, science fiction.

Barbara B. (IN-2324)

JIM C. (W IN) (#55)

5'7", 140, small boned, 47. Raised as a girl for 7 years. Hair was curled almost nightly, given home permanents, slept in nightgowns.

Jim C. ((IN-2312)

ANNIE JOHNSON (C IN) (#55)

MWM, understanding wife, very young looking 40. Half in Half out of closet, been out dressed half a dozen times. Spent most of 2 days shopping in L.A. & loved it! I'm done fighting it, and am now trying to broaden my experiences in order to try to find a lifestyle with which I can be contented. I have a science education and work with computers, but also have strong interests in history, philosophy, religion, myth, and just about anything else you can think of. Would like to hear from and perhaps meet others with similar interests and concerns.

BETTY ANN C. (IN) (#55)

SWM CD, 5'8", 160, 37. Enjoys photography, hiking, the outdoors, and esoteric studies. "Looking for friends, organizations, and correspondents in the Fort Wayne area."

Betty Ann C. (IN-2537)

MICHIGAN (480- 499-)

RANDI (MI) (#53)

Member: Crossroads

M/M, 5'11", late 30's, dark hair, brown eyes, educated professional who travels frequently.

Interests: Outdoor activities, music & golf. "I like to talk and meet with others, attractive and experienced in the feminine persuasion, TV and TS."

Randi (MI-1074)

DONNA KAY HILL (MI) (#53)

Member: Crossroads

DWM, pre-op, 6'4", 200 lbs, long brown frosted permed hair, pierced ears. Have started hormones and electrolysis. Am learning to be me and would like to hear from other sisters. A college graduate, employed in civil service, I enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, running, the outdoors, and my two dogs.

Donna Kay Hill (MI-0829)

TERRI SUZANNE SCOTT (MI) (#54)

Member: Crossroads

Participant: 'Be All'

Personable lady who enjoys life and grows more confident in her feminine being every day. Life's goal is to become an active member of society as a woman. Actively working towards that goal. Interested in correspondence only with other women who have accepted themselves and are working towards similar goals.

Terri Suzanne Scott, P.O. Box 728, Birmingham, MI 48012

Milesa P. MI-0976

MILESA PHAR (MI) (#56)

Member: Crossroads, Paradise

Participant: 'Be All'

Past President (Crossroads), Editor (Crossroads Chatter), and Board member (Crossroads). Married TV. Enjoys photography, writing. Lecturing at medical schools and universities on cross-dressing. Have produced audio tapes on wives & TV's. Crossroads outreach chairperson.

Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135 (MI-0976)

DEE R. (MI) (#53)

WM, 40, 5'9", brown hair, blue eyes. Collects military history (books and pamphlets), stupid movies, and Japanimation (cartoons).

Dee R. (MI-1916)

LUANNIA RUNNELS (MI) (#53)

Pre-op M-F TS, 6'4", 160, born 8/7/57, brown hair, blue eyes. Interested in metaphysics, medicine, Jungian psychology, astrology. I've been completely aware of the nature of my problem for some time now, and would like to help others to better understand the more esoteric aspects of transsexualism - it is <u>not</u> an accident!!!

Luannia R. (MI-2026)

DENISE Mc. (MI) (#54)

SWM TV, 5'11", 185, 37. Trying to understand my feminine side, need understanding sister to help me. Love to dress up but no one to share with.

Denise M. (MI-2171)

JAMIE C. (W MI) (#55)

Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads, IME

White, married, 35. Would like to hear from others in the Battle Creek MI area.

Jamie C. (MI-2410)

Marcia Ann T. MI-1871

MARCIA ANN T. (E MI) (#56)

Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads

Tri-City area very experienced TV, 5'10", 165, have passed in public for 25 years. Love shopping and dining en femme. would love to share experiences with other sisters. Love to correspond, and guarantee immediate reply to any who write. Happy to advise any who need help.

Marcia Ann T. (MI-1871)

DIANA K. REED (E MI) (#55)

MWM hetero CD, 5'8", 150, 54. Enjoys boating, golf, travel, & partying. Enjoys nylons, heels, slips, etc. Occasional CD, would like to dress up more often, possibly away from home. Wife lukewarm to CDing, but tolerable. Looking forward to involvement with support group. Would correspond with hetero CD's in Midwest.

Diana K. Reed, P.O. Box 463025, Mt Clemens, MI 48046 (MI-2419)

DENISE BEACH (C MI) (#56)

TS, 5'8", blond hair, blue eyes, 41, single. Enjoys movies, shopping, & warm conversation. "I would like to correspond with TV/TS in Michigan area. I am very friendly and shy, but I have significant emotional problems."

Denise Beach, 3206 Melody Lane, #43, Lansing, MI 48912

IOWA (500- 528-)

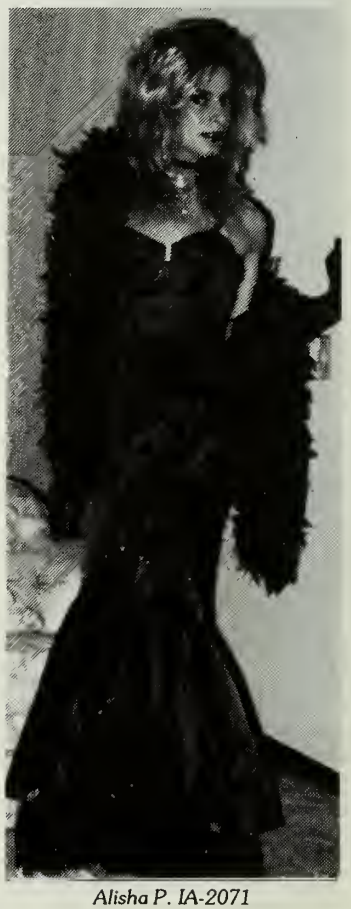
Janet B. IA-2091

JANET BAKER (IA) (#53)

Member: Iowa Artistry

MWM, 39, 175, 5'11", college grad, urbane, coarse. Enjoys ceramics, gardening, hiking, art, erotica. Would like new friends for dressing, movies, conversation, and the usual mundanities.

D.R., P.O. Box 334, Ankewy, IA 50021



Alisha P. IA-2071

ALISHA P. (IA) (#53)

Married hetero TV, late 30s, 6', 146, blue eyes, 2 children. Been a crossdresser for 30 years but still in the closet. Love satin and lace, corsets, formal wear and bridal. Sew and design my own creations. Pics available.

Alisha P. (IA-2071)

Beverly W. IA-1230

BEVERLY WAYNE (IA) (#53)

Member: Iowa Artistry (President), Tri-Ess

Participant: Holiday En Femme, 'Be All'

MWM, 37, 5'10", married to accepting wife. Advertising professional. Love going out to dinner, movies, dancing, TV parties, meeting others, helping newcomers understand and come to terms with crossdressing. Have active group, Iowa Artistry.

Beverly Wayne, P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Karen C. IA-1170

KAREN CASEY (IA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess, Iowa Artistry

MWM, 47, 6'3", 210 lbs, married 21 yrs, senior systems analyst.

Interests: Photography, cooking, reading, music and chess. I hope to correspond with some new interesting sisters, perhaps develop some lifetime friendships.

Karen Casey, P.O. Box 7224, Grand Station, Des Moines, IA 50309

Christina B. IA-1253

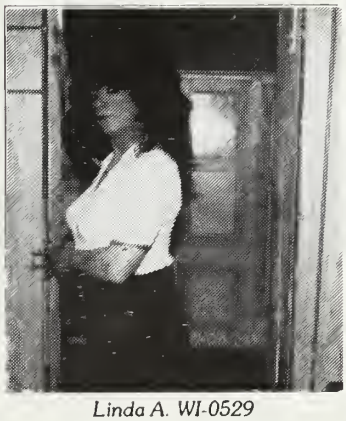
CHRISTINA MARIE BOUCHIER (IA) (#55)

Member: CLCC, CGS

Attendee: "Be All" '88, '89

TS, 5'11", 43, brown hair, blue eyes. Receiving hormones and electrolysis; attend Minnesota Gender Program. Accepted as Christina by siblings, mother, and close friends. Will start fulltime life as a woman in early 1990. Absolutely love dancing, writing, socializing, sharing and expressing my pure feminine nature. Interested in meeting TS sisters and fun, confident guys who love to dance! Christina B. (IA-1253)

WISCONSIN (530- 548-)



Linda A. WI-0529

LINDA LEE ATHIE (WI) (#55)

TS, 5'7", 165-175, blue eyes, brown hair or whatever color wig I decide to wear. Born August 1949. Interests: All things feminine, history of WW2, war gaming, and photography. "I wish to correspond with any one who wish to write to me, and to contact those to whom I have written to in the past. I wish correspondence, no personal meetings. I do answer all."

Linda Lee Athie, Box 15784, Milwaukee, WI 53215

JANET LYNN H. (WI) (#54)

SWM, 33, professional person. Have been crossdressing for as long as I can remember. I have a partial wardrobe. Am into traveling and photography. Would love to spend some time with another sister working on makeup and style. Am not passable at this time but am trying very hard.

Janet H. (WI-2141)

MARTHA M. (NE WI) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: 'Be All'

TV, 5'6", 38, 155. Enjoys crossdressing on limited basis. Have only been "out" a few times. Have wife who finds my "hobby" difficult to come to terms with. Enjoy golf, woodworking, jogging, classical music, camping, gardening, & my kids. Still new to the subculture with much to learn.

Martha M. (WI-1459)

MINNESOTA (550- 567-)

Vanessa S. MN-1168

VANESSA S. (MN) (#53)

5'11", 160, brown hair & eyes, 40, size 16, passable, hetero CD. I love to shop for anything feminine and enjoy the classic stylish look. I'm happily married to a beautiful, supportive, accepting wife. I'm presently finishing my degree in counseling, and intend to work exclusively with gender issues. My wife and I are devout Christians, and are willing to help other couples if we can. I love my femininity and have found that I became a much happier, more complete person upon allowing my femme self to emerge.

Vanessa S., Box 11771, St. Paul, MN 55111-0771 (MN-1168)

REGINA (MN) (#53)

41, 5'8 1/2, 142. White, gender-conflicted, closet TV, 3rd yr. law student. "I love classical music and Celtic, English, and European ballads of 19th/early 20th century. Also history, theology, poetry, and literature. Love elegant, classical femme attire; need help with makeup. Political libertarian, cultural conservative."

K. Schwartz, 1166 Hewitt Avenue #305, St. Paul, MN 55104

Michelle MN-1911

MICHELLE (MN) (#53)

MWM CD, 6'2", 185, brown hair, brown eyes, friendly. Coming out of the closet with a supportive wife. I would like to meet and correspond with crossdressers in northern MN and throughout the country.

Michelle (MN-1911)

Wendy S. MN-2068

WENDY St. CROIX (MN) (#54)

Bi TV, 38, 5'9", 145. I am looking for a special person who is honest, loving, and tender to share our special feelings. I will write to everyone who sends an honest letter and photo. I could also use some help with makeup and dressing. I travel a little, so please write from anywhere.

Wendy St. Croix, P.O. Box 1161, St Paul, MN 55101

KATHERINE H. (MN) (#56)

Member: CLCC, MFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair

DWM TV with TS tendencies, mid 30's, strawberry blonde, live as woman part time. Enjoy music, movies, theatre, cooking, tennis, golf, decorating. I love to make time in my

busy life to relax and let my feminine side take over. I would love to make more friends in the TV/TS community and in the "outside" world as Kathy. I go out occasionally and pass. Would love to hear from you.

Katherine H. (MN-1994)

Kristen S. MN-2275

KRISTEN SMITH (MN) (#54)

SW hetero CD, 42, 6'2", 175. Professional. Non-smoker and drug free. Enjoys dressing up as often as possible. Have not gone out. Other interests include computers, electronics, inventing, working on cars, housework, cooking, sewing, working on my feminine self and just an all around handy person. Very interested in sharing thoughts and general conversation involving our feminine self with others. "Have keyboard - will type." Will remain very confidential and expect the same.

Kristen S. (MN-2275)

WENDY P. (MN) (#54)

MWM, 5'10", 175, 26, brown hair & eyes. Interested in meeting others who are into CD & TV lifestyles. I would like to meet with those who are passable and can help me to be passable also. I love high heels, garters, and the soft feel of silk and lace. I would like to join a Twin Cities area club. Please write; will answer all.

W. Peterson, Box 617, Stillwater, MN 55082

STEPHANIE J. (MN) (#56)

DWM Bi-TV, gentle and caring. Enjoys dressing, reading, outdoor activities. "I love being a TV, and am in general a happy and secure individual. Am very interested in meeting and corresponding with TV's, TS's, and interested others for personal and social relationships. I have been dressing for over 20 years and especially love petticoats and full skirts. Discretion assured. Will answer all promptly. Photo & phone if possible.

A. Jacobs, 220 West 66th St #156, Richfield, MN 55423 (MN-2385)

Melissa J. MN-2264

MELISSA SUE J. (NW MN) (#55)

Member: CLCC

Pre-op TS, 36, 6', 155. I have attained my feminine self, on hormones, have had electrolysis. I enjoy travel, modeling, word processors, entertaining, photography, music, dancing, and social evenings of wining and dining with other TV's and TS's that are experienced in feminine persuasions. Will also give advice to those just starting. Men and women please write also. Need new social friends, and will be pen pals with those that would like to communicate.

Melissa J. (MN-2264)

BARBARA JANE A. (SE MN) (#55)

Participant: HBIGDA Convention

Middle-aged male gender dysphoric who cross-dresses in private. Seeks friendship with a feminine M-F TS. You may call me between 7 a.m. & 7 p.m. at (612) 870-8234.

Barbara A. (MN-2479)

SOUTH DAKOTA (570- 577-)

NORTH DAKOTA (580- 588-)

MONTANA (590- 599-)

ILLINOIS (600- 629-)

JENNIFER SUMMERS (IL) (#53)

Member: Chi Chapter

Divorced, 38, 5'9", blue eyes, professional, self-employed. Enjoys reading, bicycling, classical music, and outings. I would like to explore new friendships as a woman.

Jennifer Summers, Box 263, 606 West Barry, Chicago, IL 60657

Eve B. IL-0523

EVE B. (IL) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Educational Resources Committee

Member: Chi Chapter, Outreach, CGS

Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Be All', 'Coming Together'

Awards: Miss DREAM '77 & '80, FF Miss Congeniality, FF Miss Best Dressed, Miss Fantasia Fair

Eve is an elegant fun-loving girl who 'exists' 2-3 days a week. Enjoys shopping, dining out, and traveling the Mid-West and West. Does many presentations with Naomi O. (IL) before professional and college audiences to help 'educate' on our lifestyle. Has appeared on television in Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis. Eve plays golf and tennis.

Eve B. (IL-0523)

NAOMI O. (IL) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Legal & By-Laws Committee

Member: Chi Chapter

Participant: Fantasia Fair, "Be All", 'Coming Together'

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair, Miss Congeniality

A Chicago area attorney who loves the better things in life. Am personable and understanding. Enjoy travel, photography, food (still can't stand beets or Brussels sprouts), fashion and jewelry (it's the gypsy in my soul). Active in mid-west crossdressing activities; have appeared on radio and television in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis.

Naomi O., Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

Naomi O. IL-0257

Gloria W. IL-0613

GLORIA WRIGHT (IL) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess (VP Chi-Chapter), CGS

Participant: "Be-All" IFGE Conventions, Holiday En Femme

Awards: 1st Runner-Up Miss CGS 1988, 1st Runner-Up Miss Windy City GGA.

Heterosexual TV, 36, 5'3, passable, fun loving, hard working. Enjoy singing, dancing, jogging, photography, karate, science, and writing. I love correspondence, but all of the above stuff has stifled my response time.

G. Wright, Box 172, Gumee, IL 60031

JENNIFER B. (IL) (#53)
Member: CGS, Chi Chapter Tri-Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Awards: FF Miss Best Dressed, FF Miss Femininity
SWM TV, mid-50s. I look great and feel great about being Jennifer.
Jennifer B. (IL-2074)

Barbara B. IL-1980

BARBARA DIANE B. (IL) (#54)
Member: Chi Chapter
Participant: Holiday En Femme
Hetero TV, 28, 5'10", 143, contemporary woman of the '90s. Barbara is a very caring, wonderful person. Enjoys photography, fishing, and dancing. Will try and answer all who write.
B.D. Beers, P.O. Box 2002, Des Plaines, IL 60017

Karen R. IL-1514

KAREN MICHELLE R. (IL) (#55)
Member: Chi Chapter
Participant: Holiday En Femme
A couple of years older and wiser. Feeling good about who I am. I still believe that being Karen is still what it's all about - now more than ever. I love to help my sisters. I've heard from so many. Hope to hear from you - yes you! I wouldn't mind letters from real girls and TS's too!
Karen R. (IL-1514)

Patrika W. IL-2166

PATRIKA W. (IL) (#54)
SWM, 6'3". Interests: Sports, music - having fun with my fem self - sometimes dressing sexy, and other times passing as a grandma. Love to exchange letters and photos with other TV's who want a nutty girlfriend.
Patrika W. (IL-2166)

Geri W. IL-1400

GERI WATERS (IL) (#55)
Member: SLGF
6', 190 (and losing), brown hair, hazel eyes, Leo, good natured. Enjoys art, writing, cars, good friends. Looking for sisters & friends in the St. Louis area to share ideas and get-togethers. Pass well in public and enjoy going out. I'm also a columnist for a national publication.
Geri Waters, 5 Chambers Blvd, Belleville, IL 62221

SUSAN MACDONALD (IL) (#54)
Pre-op M-F TS, 43, 6'2", 150, on hormones 8 months. "I would like to hear from other TS's (pre- and post-op) who share my interest in the outdoors, cats, classical music (renaissance & baroque), and cool jazz.
Susan MacDonald (IL-1463)

TERESA BEATRICE K. (IL) (#53)
SWM, late 30s, 6'+. Super tech: programmer, chess player, sci-fi. I am a closet TV trying to decide if I should come out of the closet or if my PC is enough.
Teresa K. (IL-1969)

DEBBIE WOLF (IL) (#53)
43, 5'10", 170, married. Enjoys hiking, photography, camping, as well as crossdressing and my feminine side. Would like to hear from other married TV's about family interaction with feminine self.
Debbie W. (IL-1978)

Cindy H. IL-1757

CINDY SUE H. (IL) (#55)
Member: Chicago Gender Society, Chi Chapter Tri-Ess
MWM, 41, 6', married to understanding & loving wife. Attractive, fun loving, outgoing.
Cindy H. (IL-1757)

PATRICIA CHAPMAN (N IL) (#55)
Member: CIGA, CGS
I am a 43 yr old M-F TS on hormones, with a physical handicap (amputee). Living as a female. Would like to meet and correspond with other pre-op or post-op TS's. Am planning to have SRS in the Spring or early Summer.
Patricia C. (IL-1560)

STEPHANIE G. (C IL) (#55)
SWM TV, 5'9", 135, 31, brown hair, size 10-12. Enjoys cross-dressing, photography, shopping, being a woman, sci-fi books, girl talk. "I'm just coming out of the closet & can use all the help I can get. Hope to one day live full time as a woman. Please be discrete. Please write.
Stephanie G. (IL-2411)

JILL H. (N IL) (#56)
Member: CIGA
Mid 40's, lonely, hetero, drug free, no alcohol, quit smoking. Enjoys working on cars, working outside, reading, writing letters, camping, long walks, cross-dressing. "Looking for correspondence with TV's & TS's. Possible friendship, dressing sessions. Could you be my teacher in the finer art of dressing and makeup. Travel limited to north central Illinois area.
Jill H. (IL-2470)

KIM NICOLE (N IL) (#55)
Tall, thin, feminine body features, intelligent, witty, articulate, & fun loving. Enjoys arts, theatre, movies, outdoor recreation (summer preferred), travel, and, oh yes...shopping! Professional television director/cinematography. Have been "cross-dressing" in public since 14 years old (or over half my life).
Kim N. (IL-2494)

MISSOURI (630- 658-)

Barbara C. MO-1913

BARBARA ANN CHRISTENSEN (MO) (#53)
33, 6', and overweight. Brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys photography, reading, writing. Would like to correspond with other TVs and CDs. Would very much like to become passable in public.
Barbara Ann C. (MO-1913)

BERNICE M. (MO) (#53)
TS/TV, 40s, 5'9", 130, brown hair & eyes, shy, single, long hair. Lives alone in the country, wears only female clothes even as a male. Have nearly finished electrolysis. Enjoy playing guitar, gardening, collecting, corresponding with other TV/TSs.
Bernice M. (MO-2018)

Angela J. MO-1162

ANGELA JOHNSON (MO) (#53)

Member: St Louis Gateway Femmes "My interests are Photography, softball, bowling, weight training. I would like to hear from all TVs, TSs, crossdressers & sympathetic women to write and share experiences and problems."

Angela Johnson (MO-1162)

Sandra Anne U. MO-2243

SANDRA ANN U. (SW MO) (#54)

Member: Delta Omega, Boulton & Park, SLGF

Attractive (so says spouse), 60+ lady who enjoys her cross-dressing and feminine side. Size 20. "Enjoy camping and traveling in our RV. Enjoy trout fishing in the Ozarks. Love to cook & do house work. Am retired as Safety Officer of large hospital. Now living in the Ozarks, and enjoying every minute. Love all things feminine, especially lingerie. Have beautiful collection of over 200 panties. Send me a panty, and I will send you one of equal or greater value (birthdays, etc.). I promise to answer all letters.

Sandra Ann U. (MO-2243)

KANSAS (660- 679-)

JAN G. (KS) (#54)

Semi-passable on a dark night. Would enjoy corresponding with sisters that have like interests.

J. Gladfelter, P.O. Box 47353, Wichita, KS 67201

Becky C. KS-1346

BECKY GAIL C. (KS) (#54)

Member: Gemini II Crossdresser's Club

5'6, 167, 38C-33-36, 40-ish. Artist, writer, sculptor, love being a "Ms". Would like to meet KC area girls to share fantasy, secrets, and girl talk. SASE and picture, please?

Becky Ann, c/o Gemini II, 418 Linn St., Leavenworth, KS 66048

Marie B. KS-1549

MARIE BENSON (KS) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess, CAF

Participant: KC Fall Harvest W/E

MWM, hetero TV, masters degree, 6'1", 165, 39, blue eyes, light brown hair. Enjoys guitar, photography, computers. Active in new Kansas City CAF (Crossdressers and Friends) group. Have a loving and supportive wife. Enjoy getting out with the group.

Marie Benson, P.O. Box 7744, Overland Park, KS 66207 (KS-1549)

KELLY SHIN (KS) (#53)

Married CD, mid-30s, 5'9", 150, size 14. Passable and attractive TV. Loves going out and enjoys being treated like a lady. Would like to hear from sincere sisters with like interests to exchange experiences, feelings, and photos.

Kelly S. (KS-1966)

NANCY C. (KS) (#54)

Member: Kansas City CAF, SLGF

Participant: Texas T-Party, Fantasia Fair, 'Coming Together', 'Be All'

"I have been crossdressing for years and enjoy working with and for members of our community. I travel frequently and widely, enjoy just about everything, and do well for myself, both in my male and my female role. Interests include reading, history, movies, current events, and, of course, fashion and beauty. (I'm a sucker for the antebellum stuff.)"

Nancy (KS-2189)

EVELYN B. (E KS) (#56)

Member: CLCC, CAF

Tall, sensitive and caring TS, passable and really into improving my feminine experiences. Serious and advanced crossdresser. "Enjoy going out as much as possible, traveling to new parts of the country and broadening my feminine mind. Interested in meeting other serious crossdressers. Not into long correspondence but can help with resources in the Kansas City area."

Evelyn B. (KS-0400)

Evelyn B. KS-0400

NEBRASKA (680- 693-)

Judy A. NE-1179

JUDY ADAMS (NE) (#53)

Member: Tri Ess, River City

Participant: 'Be All '86,'88, P-town Outing '86.

DWM, 5'8, 140. Interests: Music, computers, woodworking, TV psychology, recruiting new sisters to our Midwest group, helping new sisters, integrating female self into male side. Would like to hear from sisters, especially from those within 250 miles of Omaha. I love femininity and want to learn as much as I can about it.

Judy Adams, Box 1305, Belleview, NE 68005 (NE-1179)

MARCIE H. (NE) (#53)

Single, pre-op M-F TS, 27, 6'4, 175, friendly but shy. Enjoy space, science fiction, astronomy, and everything having to do with learning to live as a woman. "I've stopped denying my femininity. I would love to make friends with others who have gone through this. We could share some insights and maybe a little moral support."

Marcie H. (NE-1938)

Laura W. NE-2404

LAURA W. (NE) (#54)

SWM TV, 6', 32, has extensive wardrobe. Passable but needs help in coming out. "Plan on going to my first convention "Be All" in June. Would like to correspond with sincere and discreet person going to same event. Am very interested in group support."

Laura W. (NE-2404)

JONI P. (E NE) (#56)

MWM TV, 6', 180, sensitive, caring, discreet. Interests: Anything outdoors, bowling, racquetball, dancing, a good bottle of red wine. "My greatest desire is to perfect my femininity. I would love to correspond and possibly meet with passable TV or TS in E. Nebraska or W. Iowa. I need a friend to help me become a complete woman and to share and discuss this beautiful world. Please write."

Joni P. (NE-2437)

LOUISIANA (700- 714-)

KAREN SCOTT (LA) (#54)

WM, 5'10", 170. Retired widower with master's degree. Former coach, captain USAF, stockbroker, 15 years in merchant marine. Have dressed "in the closet" since teens; wife was very understanding. First time in public was at a Tri-Delta-Chi meeting. Would value friendship with any TV or TS.

Karen Scott (LA-2139)

Jayne M. LA-1176

JAYNE MILLS (LA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Delta-Chi, Salmacis

Hetero TV, 40, living in New Orleans area. New to the world and need help from GGs, TVs, and TSs learning how to improve my transformation. Been dressing for years; out of the closet 3 years.

Jayne Mills (LA-1176)

Lee M. LA-1618

LEE MYMICK (LA) (#56)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Participant: 'Coming Together', 'Fantasia Fair', 'Texas T Party', Fantasy Adventure W/E

Married WM, 5'10", 170. Ring leader of Tri Delta Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess in New Orleans. Would like to hear from more cross-dressers in the surrounding area.

Lee M., c/o Tri Delta Chi, P.O. Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300 (LA-1618)

Lisa H. LA-1717

LISA HART (LA) (#56)

SWM TV, 36, slim athletic build. Attractive, successful professional. "I cross-dress only occasionally, but love to go out when I do. would like to meet an attractive female who will accept my infrequent need to relax from the self-imposed pressures of my 'type A' existence in the guise of a carefree, affable young woman. I'd also like to correspond and exchange photos with potential TV/TS friends."

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

Vicki D. LA-2409

VICKI DIXON (LA) (#56)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Participant: 'Fantasy Adventure', Texas 'T' Party

MWM, 5'8", 145, 40-ish, size 10, college educated, sensitive, very passable. Enjoys shopping with wife, and dressing with style and class. Enjoys motorcycles and boating. "I'm happily married to a beautiful and supportive wife. My wife and I are devout Christians. I know who I am and have accepted it. Will answer all mail as quickly as possible.

Vicki Dixon, P.O. Box 77905, Baton Rouge, LA 70879 (LA-2409)

Michelle B. LA-2373

MICHELLE BECKER (LA) (#55)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Lifelong TV, 5'7", 108, 40. Enjoys fashions, make-up, pretty shoes and clothes. "I have been living in the closet until I got involved with Tri Delta. I love dressing and being accepted for what I am. Would love to correspond with passable TV/TS for friendship, meetings and photo exchange, especially in the New Orleans area."

Michelle Becker, P.O. Box 963, Gramercy, LA 70052 (LA-2373)

TRACY (LA) (#54)

MWM TV, 5'11", 190, 42. Educated; wife does not understand. Enjoy all things feminine. Would like to correspond or meet with sisters to explore the range of feelings unique to special people like us.

Tracy (LA-2147)

DIANE ELAINE B. (SE LA) (#56)

DWM, 5'11", 160, 38, profes-

sional, well adjusted as male, but lifelong yearning to be a woman. Interests: TS phenomena, skiing, chess (could play via mail with sisters), running. "I'm searching, seeking, dreaming, hoping to find the answers for myself. I would love to attend an event, but I'm just getting started. Encouraging words will be appreciated. I would love to correspond with pre-op TS's to share the excitement of your journey and help you through the difficult times.

Diane, c/o C.P. Brown, 2429 Regency Place, Gretna, LA 70056 (LA-2467)

STEPHANIE S. (LA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance

Very tall, good personality, good listener, open minded and easy going. Enjoys shopping, music, travel, video/stereo equipment, fine lingerie. "I've been a TV for over 10 years and I'm always seeking the methods to refine and more fully enjoy the realm of femininity. I am interested in communicating with anyone 20-40 that has similar interests. Discretion assured, sincere and not pushy. All listing inquiries answered with adequate, honorable descriptions.

Stephanie S. (LA-2545)

JERRI N. (NW LA) (#55)

Member: Beta Chi

Participant: Texas T-Party

6'1", 230, 47. "Like sports, travel a lot throughout the South, and would like contacts in the South and Southwest especially."

Jerri N., P.O. Box 38048, Shreveport, LA 71133-8048

ARKANSAS (716- 729-)

Stephanie Renee AR-1841

STEPHANIE RENEE' (AR) (#57)

5'8", 145, 36, brown hair/eyes. Married; wife understands & is very helpful; still needs a little education on subject. 4 children, 4-19. Would like to meet other sisters from the general area for help & friendship. Have corresponded, but not yet met anyone. Interests include all aspects of being a woman.

S. R. Fowler, Box 1835, Springsdale, AR 72765

Randi S. AR-1708

RANDI S. (AR) (#55)

Member: CDI

SWM, Bi-, 5'11", 155. Lifelong CD, brown hair & blue eyes. I wish to contact sincere femmes, & boys who would rather be girls. Enjoy shopping, quiet evenings, & girl talk. Interested in childhood dressing experiences & and freelance writer.

Randi S. (AR-1708)

OKLAHOMA (730- 749-)

Jerri S. OK-1830

JERRI ELIZABETH S. (OK) (#56)

SWM TV, 6'1", 210, 37 years old - and all as a TV. Enjoys history, nonfiction, and sci-fi. Enjoys music, dining out, dancing, and just being the woman that I am inside and out. Looking for other TV/TS's and anyone who would like to share their good times and bad times in the world we live in. I just want to help others to grow and understand who we are and will become in the future.

Jerri S. (OK-1830)

GINA FRANCAIS (OK) (#54)

SWM CD, 35, 6', 148, friendly but shy. Would like to start friendship with other TV/TS. Enjoy listening to music, riding bikes. Need advice, will correspond. Wish to join organization in Oklahoma.

G. Loveland, P.O. Box 702044, Tulsa, OK 74170-2044

RAINA PEARSON (C OK) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

42 year-old government employee, had the desire to dress most of life from about age 10. Been out of closet about 3 years, married to a somewhat supportive wife. Will reply to all letters received.

Raina Pearson, Box 764, Harrah, OK 73045

Daphne P. OK-2367

DAPHNE PRESCOTT (NE OK) (#56)

Member: CDI Tulsa

TV with TS tendencies. 5'7", 130, blue eyes, slender and fairly passable. Enjoys music, writing, fashion, & history. Enjoys feminine lifestyle, and going out dressed. "I have been a cross-dresser since age four and am always looking for ways to improve my feminine image. Would enjoy hearing from anyone and will answer all letters."

Daphne P. (OK-2367)

TEXAS (750- 799-)

MARY LEE (N TX) (#55)

5'10", 160. Size 14/16. Ex-military. Still earning a living although 60. Avid reader. Enjoys Crossdressing, things regarding gender assignment and adoption, feminism, and Christianity & its view of TV/TS. Will answer all letters but it sometimes takes me a long time.

Mary Lee, Box 532535, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053-2535

Janice R. TX-0567

JANICE HILARY RUPARD (S TX) (#56)

IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)

Member: Boulton & Park (co-founder)

Participant: Texas T-Party (co-founder), 'Coming Together', Fantastic Adventure, '90 In 90'

MWM TG, 5'9", 160, size 18, 60's going on 40. Sensitive, with a gentle, caring nature. Interests: Classical music, playing 'big band' and jazz (alto and bari sax), photography and everything feminine. "Since I retired, living alone, I've worked very hard developing my femininity. Now, Janice goes most everywhere and does everything. I shop, work, travel by air or by highway - you name it. I'm not the fastest respondent, but I always answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed."

Janice Rupard, P.O. Box 63112, Wetmore, TX 78163 (TX-0567)

BETTE LEE JOHNSON (N TX) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Programs Committee, 'Coming Together' Staff

Member: Delta Omega

Attractive TV, 50's, sensitive, caring, outgoing, and very comfortable in the joys of being a woman. "I enjoy the pleasures of being dressed and feeling feminine, and am told I pass well. Enjoy parties and socials with other TV ladies, and being in public en-femme (with discretion). Am now dedicated to serving 'our' world and in particular, helping those who are just starting to come out, and who may need help and advice."

Bette J. (TX-0543)

Jane Ellen F. TX-1250

JANE ELLEN FAIRFAX (E TX) (#53)

Attendee: 'Coming Together', Holiday En Femme, Texas T-Party

President, Tau Chi Chapter, '88 - '89

41, 6'2", 210, chestnut hair, green eyes, professional. "Jane's interests include church work, duplicate bridge, choral singing, spectator sports, and pre-40's music. She is also an amateur mineralogist, medieval historian, and an avid Sherlock Holmsian. She and her actively supportive wife would like to correspond with other couples.

Jane Ellen (TX-1250)

KIM KELLY (W TX) (#56)

Bi-TV, 5'8", 170. Enjoys spectator sports, TVism, travel. Lived in Puerto Rico 20 yrs. Can entertain or travel. Would like to join TV group in El Paso area. Will answer all letters ASAP.

C.R. Kelly, P.O. Box 12113, El Paso, TX 79913

NANCY COLE (TX) (#53)

5'9", 165 lbs., 35 yrs. old W/M

Nancy Cole (TX-1795)

STEFANIE (E TX) (#53)

W/M, 5'6", 140, brown hair/eyes, olive complexion. "Looking for friends; need someone to have a little girl talk. Still in closet, but wants to come, need advice and help. Will answer all who write."

RSM, Box 58170, Suite 1041, Houston, TX 77258

JILL (TX) (#53)

5'10", single, white, 26. Well educated, discreet. Recently moved to Texas from Nashville, TN. Looking for new friends. Interested in meeting attractive TVs/TSs. Travel South Texas.

Jill (TX-2043)

STEPHANIE SMITH (TX) (#53)

5'7", blue eyes, brown hair, 32, 150. Enjoy chess, skiing (water/snow), ham radio, and meeting people with similar situations. "I'm a genetic male who has from earliest memory been fundamentally female. Plan to seek SRS; appreciate any assistance in dealing with this issue.

Stephanie Smith (TX-1870)

Rene` F. TX-0989

RENE' FENNER (W TX) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, GCTVC, CHIC, Boulton & Park

Participant: 'Coming Together', Texas 'T' Party, Fantastic Adventure W/E

MWM, 58, 6'1", 200. Go to restaurants and travel frequently as Rene'. Wife knows but is not approving. Always trying to improve feminine image. Also enjoy amateur radio and fishing. Will answer any correspondence received.

R. Fenner, 100H, 10502 Telephone Rd, Houston, TX 77075

JACQUELINE ANNE ALLEN (S TX) (#53)

Member: Boulton & Park

Strawberry blonde, 5'9", 77Kg (I think - anything to avoid the fact!), brown eyes. Interests: cars, jazz & classical music, politics, westerns, kids. "When I first started dealing with national organizations I intended to become a good correspondent. Result - failure! I would like to hear from you, though."

Jacqueline Anne Allen, Box 6948, San Antonio, TX 78209

SAMANTHA W. (N TX) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors

Member: Delta Omega

Participant: Dream, Fantasia Fair, Be-All, Shangri-La, Coming Together.

Married TV, 5'1", size 20, age 50, active in Dallas area crossdressers group. Enjoy my children and travelling in my RV in addition to my crossdressing. A sporadic correspondent.

Samantha W. (TX-0779)

MONIQUE (TX) (#53)

Age 53. I'm a life-long TV who has never met another TV or "passed" in public.

Monique (TX-1944)

SIGRID W. (TX) (#54)

Over 55, 5'10", brunette hair. Have attended events where both TVs and TSs were present. Will answer all intelligent letters from TSs and TVs on things of common interest.

Sigrid W. (TX-1248)

GINNY ALLISON (TX) (#54)

Member: Boulton & Park, Tri-Ess

Participant: Texas 'T' Party

Since moving to Texas I've enjoyed getting out of the closet and meeting more & more sisters. I would like to correspond & meet with more.

Ginny A. (TX-1223)

Leigh K. TX-1971

LEIGH ANNE KOSLEY (TX) (#53)

41, 6'2", 210, hazel eyes, size 18 dress and 14 shoe. Active military. Enjoys theater, model railroad, music, aerobics and racquetball. Interested in corresponding with others of the same interest. Would also like to meet a woman who would like to share the same likes and life.

Leigh Anne K. (TX-1971)

REHA ELLIS (S TX) (#54)

Member: Heart of Texas TV

Participant: Fantastic Adventure Houston

SWM life long CD, 5'11", 155, 30's. Enjoy going public, still learning. MS degree, loves to talk about feelings and the adventurous Reha. Enjoy correspondence with all TVs & TSs, and showing a girl around Austin. Please Write.

Reha E. (TX-2109)

Joanne H. TX-2081

JOANNE HARLESS (N TX) (#53)

5'10", medium build, nice looking in either gender, athletic. I adore the soft & gentle aspects of femininity. I especially love feeling feminine. I would like to know others with similar interests. A friend or two in this would be all I could ask.

JoAnne Harless, P.O. Box 515205, Dallas, TX 75251

Marlina M. TX-2211

MARLINA DAWN MURPHY (S TX) (#54)

Member: Heart of Texas TV, Boulton & Park

MWM, 6'2, 195, 48 & dreaming of 21 again, size 16-18. Enjoy fishing, gourmet cooking, music, photography, and dressing. Have a very sensitive, supportive wife who helps me with every aspect of becoming the lady I want to be. Active in central and south Texas. Am interested in helping others, even it's a chat on the phone.

Marlina (TX-2211)

CHERYL CLARK (S TX) (#53)

Member: Boulton & Park, Heart of Texas TV

Married heterosexual CD, 5'8", 147, 40's, blue eyes, blond hair. Enjoys sport cars, guitar playing, pleasant & honest people.

C. Clark, P.O. Box 373, Manchaca, TX 78652 (512) 892-6454 (leave message for Cheryl Clark)

Ricki S. TX-2201

RIKKI SCOTT (S TX) (#54)

Late 40's, professional man, lifelong CD with tolerant spouse. Enjoy classical and jazz music, sailing, psychological and family history aspects of gender dysphoria. Doing research into gender dysphoria; would appreciate all contacts and info (especially family history) on your CD experience.

Occupant, Box 26031, Austin, TX 78755

Carol B. TX-2179

CAROL BAKER (N TX) (#54)

WM, 5'11", 145, ash blonde. Very outgoing; love being a "girl". Love to talk with others and help them to "come out" if a CD. If not a CD, I want to help them understand our ways.

Carol Baker, Box 1424, Waco, TX 76703 (TX-2179)

MAXINE MCDONALD (N TX) (#55)

Member: Delta-Omega (Dallas)

Attendee: FanFair (11 yrs.)

Awards: Ms. Most Helpful, Outreach Award

Am into pipe organs, broadcasting, video production, streetcars, computers. I write letters to legislators and generally lobby for the interests of our community.

Occupant, Box 2171, Dallas, TX

Debbie B. TX-1284

DEBBIE BROOKS (N TX) (#53)

Sensual and sincere TG. Inventor (patented), entertainer, and artist. Slightly old fashioned, especially regarding manners. Will respond quickly to letters from GGs; ASAP to others.

Debbie Brooks, Box 530106, Grand Prairie, TX 75053

Janell S. TX-2173

JANELL S. (TX) (#54)

SWM TV/TS, 25, 5'9", 145. Size 11, feminine body, but still needs help to pass. Live alone and dress constantly when at home. Hope to start hormones soon. Will answer all.

Janell S. (TX-2173)

MARY B. (TX) (#54)

MWM brunette, 5'10", mid-30s, size 12. Married, semi-passable. Hobbies include computers, painting, and kayacking. Enjoy all things feminine - hose, lingerie, skirts, and heels. Still shy and learning. Would be happy to correspond with anyone TV or TS.

Mary B. (TX-2194)

CASEY COLE (S TX) (#56)

Member: HTTV, Boulton & Park

hetero TV, 39, 5'11". "Enjoy music, building my own house, outdoor activities. Active in several clubs. Interested in visiting other TV's/clubs while traveling."

Casey C. (TX-1907)

Melanie T. TX-1866

MELANIE THORNE (E TX) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Texas 'T' Party, Be All, Holiday En Femme, Fantasia Fair, Fantasy Adventure W/E

Young 51 yr old CD, married to ultimate supportive SO. Enjoy everything feminine, travel, & my beautiful wife! My wife, Dr. Peggy Rudd, and I enjoy meeting & talking with TV's, TS's, TG's, in all parts of the world. Peggy is a resource to other SO's.

Melanie Thorne, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy, TX 77449

Lee J. TX-2316

LEE JENKINS (S TX) (#54)

Single TV, brown hair & eyes (hair color not constant). Enjoys music, writing, photography, sports, & making videos. "I love dressing fully & being feminine. I have never met another TV and I have never been out in public - I just need a little push from a sincere TV, TS, or understanding female."

Lee Jenkins, #290 P.O. Box 2013, Austin, TX 78768-2013 (TX-2316)

Heather W. TX-2384

HEATHER MICHELLE WILSON (N TX) (#55)

Member: Delta Omega

Single CD, 33, 6', 28" waist, enjoys sailing, aerobics and shopping. One of numerous "Michelles" who attended Texas T-Party, and added new name. Seek correspondence with other hetero CD's searching for a wife. Heather's goal is to be truly happy with herself, and would also like to attend a major Dallas social event as Heather. Favorite looks: Classy, career.

H.M. Wilson, Box 550802, Dallas, TX 75355 (TX-2384)

Donna W. TX-2476

DONNA WHITE (N TX) (#56)

Extremely sweet, effeminate TV, 5'9", 155, looking for friends. Passing in public and getting second glances from men is my favorite pastime. Would like to meet other sisters, and share experiences.

Donna W. (TX-2476)

JAYE R. (E TX) (#55)
Member: Tau Chi, Crossroads
Awards: Tau Chi 'Helping Professional of the Year' 1988
59 year old hetero CD, author, pilot, motorcyclist, Mackintosh computer consultant, retired military, retired psychologist, divorced. Copy editor "Femme Mirror".
Jaye R. (TX-2382)

ROY H. (N TX) (#56)
DWM non-crossdresser, 5'10", 42, world traveler. Enjoys movies, videos, travel, records, concerts, quiet talks. "Would like to meet pre or post-op TS for long lasting, honest, caring relationship. No games, no lies, just me. I have a nice beat and I'm easy to dance to.
Roy H., 3328 Cedar Plaza #206, Dallas, TX 75235

JHERI LEE (E TX) (#56)
Member: IFGE Supporting, Tau Chi, TransPitt, Delta Omega
Long tall Texan - 6'2", 215, size 24, mid 40's, professional, hetero, married, wife not involved. Enjoy music, conservative yet elegant clothes, computers, writing. "I travel all over and want to meet others. Need opportunities to safely go out, and develop supportive friendships with other CD's. Still learning. Particularly interested in meeting others in Dallas, Houston, Calgary, Pittsburgh. Very interested in becoming more involved on our community."
Jheri Lee, P.O. Box 42810, Houston, TX 77242 (713) 828-6729 (leave message) (TX-2525)

COLORADO (800- 816-)

Shirley K. CO-0494

SHIRLEY K. KNIGHT (CO) (#55)
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Texas T-Party, GGA Spring Fling
SWM TV, 47, 5'8", friendly, fun, and feminine. Enjoys traveling, church activities, and going out in public dressed.
Shirley K. Knight, P.O. Box 1042, Pueblo, CO 81002

A. THOMAS ELLIOTT, JR. (CO) (#53)
I need to learn more about the legal and psychological issues associated with crossdressing and transsexualism.
A. Thomas Elliott, Jr. (CO-1914)

Laura S. CO-1556

LAURA S. (CO) (#55)
Member: GIC - Denver, Delta Chapter
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
MWM TV with TG/TS tendencies, 5'10", 155, 42. Fun loving, caring person interested in bringing dignity & respect to our community. Enjoy being Laura, shopping, gardening, flying, cooking, rock n' roll music, being with friends. My wife has become fairly supportive since attending Texas T-Party. Been dressing since 5, in and out of closet several times. Finally out for good. I am developing the best friendships I have ever had with sisters I have met at Fan Fair and T-Party. Interested in working on issues relevant to our gender community.
Laura S. (CO-1556)

VANESSA PHILIPS (SE CO) (#54)
MW TV, 43, 5'6", 140, hazel eyes. Enjoys fly fishing & tying flies, horseback riding. Educated, seeking correspondence and meetings with other CD/TV/TS's for advice, support, and just being friends (I feel that this is a two way street). Will answer all who write.
Vanessa Philips, P.O. Box 11277, Pueblo, CO 81001

WYOMING (820- 831-)

JEAN C. (WY) (#53)
Single female, 30s. Enjoy gardening, writing, reading, and cats. Am willing to help CDs in whatever way I can. I strongly feel that people should have a right to dress and look the way they want! Though not myself a CD, maybe I can offer support (even if only a letter) to all you wonderful people in Tapestry-Land.
Jean C. (WY-1551)

CHARLENE S. (WY) (#53)
5'8", 160, 55, single. I live on a small ranch, love outdoors, and crossdressing. I can travel and am looking forward to beautiful people. Will answer all letters and pictures.
Charlene S. (WY-2069)

IDAHO (832- 838-)

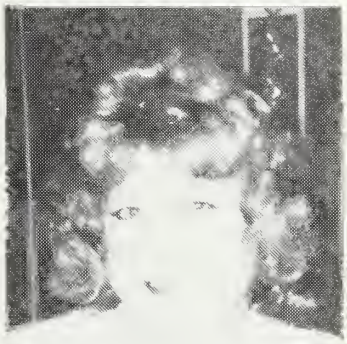
Davi B. ID-2078

DAVI B. (ID) (#53)
Single TV with TS tendencies, 5'11", 140, 40's, brown eyes and hair. Loves going to the mall to shop for clothes. Going to a mall is the best part of my week. Enjoy water/snow skiing, roller skating, bowling, hook rugs. Would like to meet or hear from other sisters from other parts of ID that love to do the same thing.
Davi B. (ID-2078)

KINNY LEE S. (ID) (#53)
Participant: '88 Fantasia Fair.
59, 6', 200, lifelong TV. Interests include rebuilding planes, cars, etc., travel, and crossdressing. "I have been alone for too long. It was refreshing to talk with another real live TV."
Kinny Lee S. (ID-1800)

DORIAN & RENEE MORRISON (ID) (#55)
Member: IFGE Supporting
WM/WF - both in 40's ... striving to live our lives through complete role reversal. We're seeking input and observations from other TV/TS's. Would like to develop friendships within the gender-aware community. Have own biz ... Enjoy travel, golf, bridge.
Dorian and/or Renee Morrison, 338 N. Orchard St, Boise, ID 83706 (ID-2386)

Dorian M. ID-2386



Renee M. ID-2386

UTAH (840- 847-)

Mary Ann L. UT-2120

MARY ANN L. (UT) (#54)
Member: Alpha Provesta Tri-Ess
Participant: Holiday En Femme, 'Coming Together'
32, 5'8", 135. Enjoy going shopping and out in public dressed. Becoming very passible. Enjoy meeting sisters around the country, as well as those passing through Salt Lake.
Mary Ann L. (UT-2120)

BRENDA L. (UT) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: 'Coming Together'
34, 5'6", 135, brown hair. Been crossdressing for 23 years. Just joined Tri-Ess and attempting to meet other CD's and learn to understand myself better.
Brenda L. (UT-2258)

ARIZONA (850- 864-)

Cindy W. AZ-1991

CINDY (AZ) (#53)
SWM CD, looking for friendship and support from other crossdressers.
Cindy (AZ-1991)

GEORGIA B. (AZ) (#56)
Post-op TS, 5'5", 40, auburn hair, hazel eyes, struggling to lose weight. Enjoy computers (including games), current events, and developing friendships, especially with other TS's. Would like to correspond with other TS's to develop new friendships, also understanding males who are cuddly, active chubbies. Have IBM-PC with modem, let's network. Would like to socialize. My place for coffee?
Georgia B. (AZ-1012)

CHERI K. (AZ) (#54)
Member: Tri-Ess
5'9", 180, 40, brown hair and eyes. Passable but need to improve. Enjoy women's fashions, camping, and "elevator music". In/out of closet, nearing divorce from unaccepting wife. Have "passed" in large shopping malls.
Cheri K. (AZ-2214)

Wendi P. AZ-1072

WENDI DANIELLE PIERCE (AZ) (#53)
IFGE Chairman of the Board of Directors
Member: A Rose
Participant: "Coming Together", "Be All", Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party
Single post-op TS, 5'8", 150, 40. Interests: Travel, camping, writing, popular music, photography, computers, cooking, shopping, public speaking and exploring beautiful Arizona. Co-founder of 'A Rose', public speaker at university level on crossdressing and transgender issues, very active in TV/TS Community. I welcome correspondence from all sincere individuals although I cannot promise a quick response. My motto is "GO FOR IT", and I have!
Wendi Danielle P., c/o A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261

Jennifer AZ-1056

JENNIFER (AZ) (#53)
DWM, 6', 170 lbs, 44, warm, sharing and caring.
Interests: Enjoys good food, music, cuddling, and dressing to the max. Good wardrobe - extensive lingerie, heels, wigs, makeup, etc. Would like to meet other TVs or TSs.
Jennifer (AZ-1056)

JAMIE R. (AZ) (#55)
59, 6'2", 200, size 20-22, 42C. Professional pilot. Have dressed over 10 years. Dress constantly at home; 100% supportive wife. I confine my activities mostly to the home and tri-ess events. Would never wear my male clothes again if I could.
Jamie R. (AZ-1552)

Jamie C. AZ-2335

JAMIE C. (AZ) (#55)
Bi TV, 5'11", 155, 38, brown eyes, black hair. Looking for other TV/TS's or understanding females who like CD's. Prefer age 21-45. I am an open minded person, very discrete. Expect the same. Send photo with letter.
Boxholder, P.O. Box 36563, Phoenix, AZ 85067 (AZ-2335)

Priscilla Ann S. AZ-2457

PRISCILLA ANN S. (SW AZ) (#55)
SWM bi(?) TV, 61, 6'2", 185, size 20 T, retired. Graying dedicated CD, loves all things feminine, dress to "age style", of approx. 50. Strictly a closet TV. Would like quiet social relationships with other mature TV/CD's (50-65+ age range). On quiet side, introvert, easy going, but warm and friendly. Would like to exchange correspondence/photos with TV sisters.
Priscilla S. (AZ-2457)

Lee R. AZ-2514

LEE REYNOLDS (AZ) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM, TV, 55, 5'11", 170. "Recently married extremely supportive wife who was happy to find out the makeup stains in the sink were mine, no someone else's. Love the opportunity to retreat into my persona on weekends. Would like to find a CD in Northern Arizona for the purpose of dining, social events, etc. Would like to swap beauty secrets with sisters who write."
Lee Reynolds, P.O. Box 39354, Phoenix, AZ 85069

NEW MEXICO (870- 884-)

Donna M. NM-1734

DONNA E. MOBLEY (NM) (#56)
Member: Fiesta Chapter (President), Tri-Ess Board of Directors
Participant: 'Coming Together',

Holiday En Femme

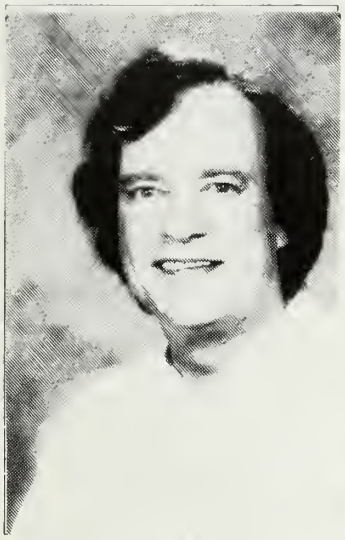
SWM, 40-something, 5'10", 150, widower. Fanatic skier/ski racer (10 hdcp). Hobbies include building scale model aircraft, photography, breaking fingernails. Widely traveled, college grad, former military (combat correspondent). Currently working as freelance audio/video/TV producer (no jokes please). Passable in public if it's dark and foggy. Will travel anywhere I can reach on a thermos of gas and a tankful of coffee. Promise a reply to all letters. Can't promise to be interesting.

Donna E. Mobley, c/o FIESTA, P.O. Box 1842, Farmington, NM 87499 (NM-1734)

DANA TODD (NM) (#53)

36, 5'8", 150, light brown hair, light blue eyes. New to therapy, TV for 24 years, probable TS. would like to meet other TV/TSs in Albuquerque area, or within 250 miles. Would like to start TV/TS support group in NM.

Dana T. (NM-2008)



Glenda J. NM-1952

GLENDA RENE JONES (NM) (#53)

Member: Tiffany Club, Tri-Ess

Participant: 'Coming Together'

Married. My wife Linda Phyllis is active and well known in the paraculture. Hobbies include sewing, gourmet cooking, and writing. Have been in public many times. Computer engineer by trade and work in the aerospace industry. Look forward to hearing from anyone.

Glenda Rene Jones, Box 13083, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3083

PAULA PATTERSON (NM) (#55)

Member: Fiesta

5'8", 148, divorced, 2 children. Work in bank with computers, like science fiction. Interested in philosophy, religion. What is going out like where you live? I'll answer all letters.

Paula P. (NM-2448)

NEVADA (890- 898-)

CALIFORNIA (900- 960-)

Ren`ee C. CA-0644

REN'EE CHEVALIER (S CA) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors, "Coming Together" Staff

Participant: P-Town WSG Outing, Wine Country Weekend, 'Coming Together'

Awards: The MSL Service Award

MWM, 5'9, 150, passable, and a supporter and hard worker on gender issues. Interests: varied, including photography and carpentry. "I enjoy helping others and bringing newcomers out into the community."

Ren'ee Chevalier (CA-0644)

Kathie E. CA-1125

KATHIE E. (CA) (#53)

5'11" WM, married, closeted. "I enjoy jazz, classical music, dressing in stockings and heels, looking to help with dressing and feminization."

Kathie E. (CA-1125)

DENISE (CA) (#53)

Member: IFGE (new)

I have been a TV all my life. I enjoy dressing a lot. Am 6' tall, married (wife doesn't like it), basically just a nice guy. I want to correspond with and hopefully meet other TVs. It would be nice to find a place where I could dress and socialize without having to spend lots of money on motel rooms all the time.

Denise (CA-1808)

Kelly CA-2221

KELLY (S CA) (#54)

MWM, 38, 5'10", 155. Attractive, passable TV, just started coming out and enjoying every minute that I get to spend as a woman. Hope to eventually live fulltime as a woman but family considerations have priority. Would love to meet GGs, TSs, and passable TVs in So. CA or Las Vegas. Photo, please.

Kelly (CA-2221)

Wendy P. CA-0390

WENDY PARKER (S CA) (#56)

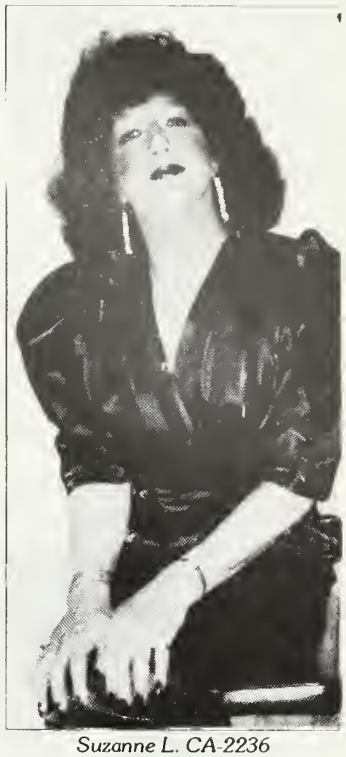
Member: IFGE Supporting, CHIC, ETVC, NWGA

Participant: Coming Together, Be All, Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party

Awards: F/F 'Ms. Cinderella'

TG, 42, 5'9", 160, fun, passable, and enjoy going out dressed. Would like to socialize and correspond with other women, gentle souls, and free femme spirits.

Wendy P. (CA-0390)



Suzanne L. CA-2236

SUZANNE M. LYNCH (S CA) (#54)

Divorced SWM TV, 49, 6', 160. Interested in complete femininity and being able to pass in all situations. Enjoy computers, video, music, and fashion. Recently divorced; enjoy my opportunities to be Suzanne. Would like to correspond with attractive, passable TV or post-op TS for friendship, meetings, and photo exchange.

Suzanne M. Lynch (CA-2236)

Roxie H. CA-1636

ROXIE HOROWITZ (S CA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess, PPOC

SWM TV, 40, 5'8", 160, non-smoker, non-drinker, full of nonsense. I am addicted to wearing high heels - I get high from wearing them. I love going out and being as beautiful as I can be. I also love making fun of

people who take themselves too seriously. I would love to get together with other TVs in CA - however, if I get out to your part of the country, you just may get a surprise visit

Roxie Horowitz (CA-1636)

TAMARA VELARDE (N CA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

Hetero, 37, 5'7". "I am interested in meeting other TVs in the San Francisco area outings and correspondence. I will attempt to answer all correspondence."

Tamara Velarde (CA-0656)

BOBBIE STARR (S CA) (#53)

MWM, 5'4", 128 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, with TS tendencies. Advanced degree in political science and history; working on degree in spec. education. Interests include good music, gourmet cooking, fine wines, shopping, and sewing (for myself and other TV sisters).

Bobbie Starr, P.O. Box 549, Pasadena, CA 91102

Ellen Ann M. CA-1408

ELLEN MCKINNON (S CA) (#54)

Member: Neutral Corner

Married white male, 35, attractive and very passable. Interests: Music, sports, reading, photography, high fashion. "I have been written up in several major publications. Enjoy going out in public in all situations. Would love to meet and go out with all California sisters and to correspond with all who write. I will attempt to answer all correspondence promptly, from my sisters across the country as well."

Ellen McKinnon, Box 261326, San Diego, CA 92126

CHRISTY BARRON (S CA) (#56)

5'5", small build, 135 lbs., olive skin, dark hair & eyes, dress size 10/11. 39, educated professional. I enjoy running, bicycling, reading, vacationing (especially in Spanish-speaking countries), and being a woman. I love small talk and styles in clothing and grooming. "I have a very supportive and understanding wife. My children don't know, but I make a better mom than dad and everyone sees that. I'm family oriented and a very supportive, humanistic person."

Christy B. (CA-1839)

Cynthia H. CA-1453

CYNTHIA HOWARD (N CA) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Hetero TV with TS tendencies. Married, outgoing. Enjoys politics, photography, law, aesthetics. Loves to dress & go out & have a good time. "I want to express myself as Cynthia fully & completely and am getting more involved in our Community. Interested in correspondence & meeting TSs, TVs, & couples. We can help each other."

Cynthia Howard, Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558

Ruby CA-1928

RUBY (S CA) (#53)

SWM, 5'8", 136, wishes to meet GGs, F>M TSs, and TVs. Enjoy friendships, art, travel, fashions, science museums, hikes, movies, ESP, culture, and music (most types).

Ruby (CA-1928)

SHARYN STEVENS (N CA) (#54)

SWM TV, born 1960, late 20's, 6', 150 or so, brown hair/eyes. Discreet, intelligent, not bad looking. Enjoys Aikido, peace movement and other liberal/radical politics, computer programming, biology, philosophy and introspection, and learning to cross-dress passably. "I'm not looking for pen pals. Very interested in dating (no smokers please) any of the following: Women (TSs OK) who are favorably disposed to TVs. Female TVs who enjoy role switching. Other TVs with only one of us cross-dressed at a time.

Sharyn Stevens (CA-1472)

LONI J. (N CA) (#53)

SWM, CD, 30, 5'10". Interested in model trains, photography, science fiction, good books, mellow music, and camping in my Jeep. Would like to learn to be more feminine. Still in the closet, but would like to come out and enjoy life anew.

Loni J. (CA-1233)

Donna Lynn F. CA-1664

DONNA LYNN FREEMAN (N CA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, ETVC

Participant: Holiday En Femme, Pajaro Dunes, 'Coming Together'

MWM hetero TV, 43, 5'9", 160, size 16, warm, caring, sensitive; usually passable and working to get better. Enjoy good food, good friends and good conversation; computers, shopping and all things feminine. Lifelong CD, public for 3 years, and have enjoyed every minute. Blessed with understanding and actively supportive wife. Am fascinated with how I have changed on this incredible journey.

Donna F. (CA-1664)

FLO JAMES (S CA) (#56)

6'4", 230, hetero, 44, married, educated professional, closeted, ultra discreet. Enjoys photography, scuba diving, travel, skiing, spy & adventure novels. Would like to meet similar person interested in friendship, fun, preferably someone like me.

Flo J. (CA-1045)

Tara T. CA-0752

TARA TENILLE (N CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC, Society of Janus (coordinator of Sacramento group)

Outgoing, fun-loving, demanding, very passable pre-TG, who enjoys the finer aspects of my femininity and life. Do you enjoy fine wine, good conversation, sightseeing, travel, four star restaurants, dancing, lazy afternoons by the water, and sincere friends? Then let's meet. Also enjoy meeting gentleman with class who would like to act as my escort for the above activities.

Love to travel and often visit NYC, Boston, LA, Chicago, SF, Seattle, and more. Sorry, but time limits correspondence. Would like to only hear from those who would ultimately be available to meet. Will reply to all who include a quality letter, photo, and self addressed stamped envelope.

Tara Tenille, P.O. Box 13033, Sacramento, CA 95813-3033

Elizabeth Najya J. CA-1030

ELIZABETH N. JOHNSON (S CA) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, 30's, 6', friendly but shy. Television engineer. Passable with voice, mannerisms & body frame, but in need of makeup & hair styling tips. Interests: Fanatic in fashion sales, indoor plants, sing opera (use my own soprano female voice), computers, bicycles. "Would like to start a friendship with TV's, TV's and others who are warm, friendly and sincere. Write, call, send video tape (any format), or audio cassette."

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

Angelique B. CA-0578

ANGELIQUE BRUMMELL (S CA) (#56)

TS-oriented male, femmiphile, feminist, believe in female rule. Health-oriented individual. 5'11", 160, 42, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoy paleontology (esp dinosaurs), inflatable boating, cuddling, animals, & helping people. I also love to bake bread. Very refined and correspondingly difficult to get along with. Agreeable, caring, and compassionate. Possibly excessively honest and still naive. "I'm very spiritual but am unable to identify myself fully with any religious organization yet experienced."

Angelique G. Brummell, 1001 Ballard Ave, Apt 1, Carpinteria, CA 93013 (CA-0578)

CINDY TAYLOR (N CA) (#56)

Bi WM, 29, blonde hair, blue eyes. Enjoy photography, music, video, astronomy. Am interested in corresponding with other Tv/TS's on who we are and why. I am interested in photo exchanges and the "sub-categories" of TV/TSism. Am very supportive and a good correspondent.

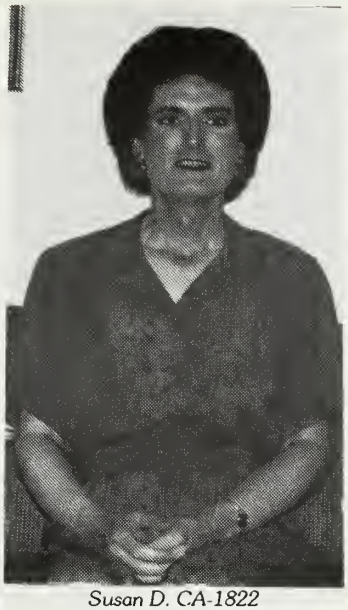
Cindy T. (CA-1727)

JESSICA MERTEN (S CA) (#53)

Member: Neutral Corner

Pre-op TS; live & work full-time as female. Others say I'm very pretty and passable. Will correspond with like individuals.

Jessica Merten, Box 9475, Palm Springs, CA 92263



Susan D. CA-1822

SUSAN DAGGETT (S CA) (#56)

Member: Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County

6', curly brown hair, beautiful hazel eyes, 43 years young. "My lifelong transsexual "battle" is finally turning open and peaceful. I enjoy personal computing, hiking, scuba diving, and being feminine!

Susan Daggett (CA-1822)

Marlene L. CA-1036

MARLENE L. (S CA) (#53)

Member: Alpha Chapter, Tri Chi chapter

Participant: Holiday En Femme

Awards: Tri-Ess 'Distinguished Service Award'

57, 5'11, 150. Professional; divorced, enjoy tennis, snow skiing, and motorcycling. I dress en femme most of the time when I am home. I work with Carol Beecroft once a week at the Tri-Ess national office sorting mail, forwarding letters, responding to correspondence.

Marlene L., c/o Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 4067, Visalia, CA 93278-4067 (CA-1036)

Lorraine H. CA-1150

LORRAINE ELLEN HALL (N CA) (#53)

Member: ETVC, Tri-Ess

Participant: Holiday En Femme

"After years of suppression, I find my feminine psyche becoming ever more dominant. Serious interest in SRS. "I am conservative and enjoy being treated like a lady. Like correspondence and gossiping with others of similar feelings. Love shopping, theater, music, writing, sewing, and even housekeeping."

Lorraine Ellen Hall (CA-1150)

Vicki CA-1925

VICKI (N CA) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess, Powder Puff

6'2", 240, probably passable except for bulk. Love ultra-high heels; have large collection. Will respond promptly with current photo to all.

Vicki (CA-1925)

RACHEL D. (N CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC, RGA

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party

5'10", 180, 51. Enjoy computers, programming, compuserve, bike riding, and, yes, cross-dressing. Separated after 22 years of marriage. Live at home dressed. 18 year old daughter knows and accepts.

Rachel (CA-1811)

Nancy W. CA-1374

NANCY WILSON (S CA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess, Neutral Corner, ETVC

5'9", 150, dark hair & eyes. Creator of Crowning Glory Wigs for crossdressers in partnership with Mona (owner of shop).

Nancy Wilson, c/o Crowning Glory Wigs, P.O. Box 40366, San Diego, CA 92104

Janet E. CA-1102

JANET EDWARDS (S CA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: 'Coming Together'

Hetero TV, 38, 5'9", 155, dark

brown hair, musician (drummer in the 'Mr. Sister Band' which performed at 'Coming Together 1989' and was featured in 'Ladylike'). I am passable and go just about anywhere I want with no problem. Hobbies are shopping, and movies. Looking for CDs to go out with in the LA area.

B. Knipfer, 13624 Sherman Way #279, Van Nuys, CA 91405

ROXANNE R. (S CA) (#54)

DWM TV, 37,6'1", 240. Lifetime TV, closeted. Enjoy shopping, dressing, music, frills, lace, golf, and pool. Would like to correspond and meet with other CDs, TSs, or men interested in such. "I am a very open and loving person. Will answer all who write. Live in the Inland Empire area."

Roxanne R. (CA-2174)

Laura C. CA-0480

LAURA R. COVINGTON (N CA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

DBM, hetero, 40, 5'8", 154, attractive, sincere, friendly. Enjoys fashion, photography, movies, video, music, reading, sports, sports cars, auto racing. I would like to correspond and meet other TVs or TSs and ladies that understand. I enjoy making new friends throughout the U.S. I love sharing with others the joys of trying to look as feminine as possible.

Laura Covington, Box 10431, Oakland, CA 94610

LYNNE LAND (S CA) (#53)

38, 6'1", 180, communicative, single caring lady into classy, casual dress with understated elegant feminine side. Looking for TV friends for meeting/sharing here in Orange County. Serious caring realistic ladies looking to share our fem personalities/ experiences will be answered.

Lynne L. (CA-1684)

Kitty P. CA-1961

UNA PERSSON (KITTY) (S CA) (#53)

Friendly, passable, sweet and flirty, at times highly energetic yet very sincere. Enjoys music, photography and various medias of artistic expression. Interested in meeting other sincere individuals, sharing experiences, going out and fun times. Will answer all correspondence.

Una Persson, P.O. Box 10118, Santa Ana, CA 92711

Donna D. CA-1895

DONNA DIXON (N CA) (#53)

Member: ETVC

Married TV, 33, 5'6", 150, brown hair & eyes, and loves all things femme. Living in SF Bay area. Enjoys corresponding, trading photos, fantasies, etc. Write soon!

Donna D. (CA-1895)

RITA F. (S CA) (#53)

Member: Crossroads, TransPitt, ETVC, Paradise

Participant: 'Be All'

Enjoys expressing fem self. Travels entire country. Builds racing engines, loves music and the arts. When in L.A. call.

Rita F. (CA-0600)

JOAN SHELDON (N CA) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)

Member: ETVC (co-founder)

MWM, hetero, 60's, a pleasant dowager. Enjoys friendship of TVs & spouses who are out of the closet & proud of the fact. Also enjoys flying, sailing, a computer freque. Enjoys contact with self-accepting TVs. Sponsors TV weekend retreats at a beach community and at Lake Tahoe. Holds events 4 times a year. Purpose: social interaction & development of feminine persona & feminine deportment.

Joan S. (CA-0391)

GLORIA B. (N CA) (#53)

6'3", 300+, BBTV. Would like to hear from other hetero TVs in the Reno area.

Gloria B. (CA-1897)

JOANNA ALICE GAYLORD (S CA) (#57)

6'2", blue eyes, long auburn hair, currently opulently obese, but losing weight. After losing both parents, gaining arthritis & asthma, at least I am blessed with an understanding supportive wonderful wife, and a new year of hope.

Joanna G. (CA-2066)

Juanita G. CA-1974

JUANITA GALLO (S CA) (#53)

Member: PPOC, ETVC

Participant: 'Coming Together', Shangri La

MW TV, 5'11", 175, brown eyes, usually black hair (depends on wig), very passable, extrovert. Enjoys dressing in good fashion, going out and being a nice lady. Interested in photography, computers, piano music. Have travelled extensively and dressed up in all major foreign cities. Would like to meet or correspond with ladies with similar interests.

Juanita Gallo, P.O. Box 4204, Huntington Beach, CA 92605

LISA MAXWELL (N CA) (#53)

SWM hetero TV, 35, 5'8", 150, slim, just coming out of the closet. Enjoys fashion, reading, bicycling, sailing, shopping, integrating male and female.

Lisa M. (CA-1965)

GARY C. (N CA) (#53)

Single Asian bi- male, 32, 5'10", 165, attractive, masculine, articulate, gentle, open minded, a little shy. An ex-NYer, ivy educated, professional. Enjoys high & pop culture, tradition vs modernity, music, architecture, gender & sexuality, sci-fi, body work, travel. I've been a reluctant romeo with GG's because I've dreamt of meeting a pretty and passable TV/TS. I seek someone intelligent, sane, elegant and sensual with whom I could share thoughts, warmth, and the support and appreciation a man and woman can have for each other. All answered; photo appreciated.

Gary C. (CA-1983)

Sharon Louise M. CA-2028

SHARON LOUISE M. (N CA) (#54)

Member: Renaissance

5'6", 165, white hair, hazel eyes, ruddy complexion. I have been a crossdresser most of my life and am no school girl by any stretch of the imagination. (My age is my secret.) Am well read and a good conversationalist. Am a former semi-pro baseball player, a good bowler, roller skater, and dancer. Been wearing corsets since early age, but didn't dress completely until my 30's. Would love to correspond and possibly meet others in my area.

J.C. Morgan, P.O. Box 537, Yountville, CA 94599

JILLIAN S. (N CA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

DWM, 22, 6', 155, straight TV stationed in Long Beach, CA. Decent looking as a guy, but haven't gotten out yet to have feedback as a woman. Love sci-fi/fantasy, Rocky Horror,

comic books, beaches, dancing, shopping (passionately), and having a good time. Want to start getting out, meeting other TV/TSs for friendship.

Jillian S. (CA-2040)

Melissa F. CA-2099

MELISSA M. FOSTER (S CA) (#58)

Member: Feminine Image, PPOC, ETVC, NWGA, Alpha Zeta, A Rose, Neutral Corner, Tri-Ess

Participant: "Coming Together"

Cute TV, 40's, 5'10", 185. BS degree in engineering, USAF Reserve. I travel extensively around the world and enjoy meeting & writing other sisters. I enjoy going out and expressing my femme personality. Enjoy music, dancing, sports. Write for several gender publications. Enjoy travelling, having fun, and being involved in activities that will help my sisters and friends learn and grow.

Melissa Foster, P.O. Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714

TERRI CANNON (S CA) (#54)

MWM, 5'11", 40's, well educated, sensitive, discreet, stable. Good sense of humor. Enjoys cooking, fine arts, photography (have taught classes), 'New Age' philosophy, psychology, film, tennis, golf. Due to family, I do not dress at home, but do have secure place to dress occasionally. Enjoy being supportive friend to other TV/TSs. Appreciate a natural look, warmth, honesty, humor. Long term friendships possible. All replies answered!"

Terri C. (CA-1293)

JAN (CA) (#55)

Member: IFGE

WM, 45, 6', 180, blonde, blue eyes. Still in the closet - yearning to come out, but afraid - consider myself a "male lesbian".

Jan (CA-2210)

Shirlee G. CA-2088

SHIRLEE G. (N CA) (#54)

Member: ETVC, RGA

SWM (widower), 50's, 5'10", 220, well educated. Closeted bi-TV, dressing since age 9. Looking for friendly TVs, women, and men willing to help me pass in public. Like to dress with style and class, but need understanding friends. Hope for a little romance in the process. Will try to answer all.

Shirlee G. (CA-2088)

Renee C. CA-1372

RENEE CHINQUAPIN (N CA) (#54)

Member: ETVC

Participant: "Coming Together"

Am currently training as a counselor and plan to work within the gender community. Am interested in networking with other counselors. Also interested in vacation exchange in So. England, France, Switzerland or Italy.

Renee Chinquapin, 200 Troll Ridge, Willits, CA 95490

Arlene R. CA-2273

ARLENE ROSEN (N CA) (#54)

TG, 5'6", 160, blue eyes, brown hair, crossdressing since age 6. Enjoys people, clothes, cooking, the world and life in general. I do not have any TG or TV friends because of my lack of courage. This I would like to change. All letters will be answered ASAP. Please, let's get to know one another.

Arlene R. (CA-2273)

Rhonda Ann S. CA-0956

RHONDA ANN SHAW (N CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC

MWM, 6', 160, 53, non-smoker. Passes well in daytime. Self-employed professional/scientist with post graduate degree. Due to job and home commitments I'm not always available. Interested in haute couture, furs, and fine food and wine. Love to dine dressed in Bay area's better restaurants. Am looking for friends to accompany me. Tall males who can escort a stylish woman are welcome.

Rhonda S. (CA-0956)

MARILYN CAMPBELL (S CA) (#54)

Young, energetic, creative TS. Sincere, sensitive, intelligent. Will correspond with anyone. Possible meeting in the LA area. "Life is short, so it should be as full as possible."

Marilyn Campbell (CA-2195)

MARCIA M. (S CA) (#55)

Small build, nice figure, very feminine, complete wardrobe. Enjoy soft silky feminine attire, especially slips, panties, and nylons. Interested in discussing mutual feminine interests and aspirations. Would like to exchange experiences and fantasies via correspondence with imaginative TV's.

Marcia M. (CA-1454)

Betty B. CA-2307

BETTY BYRNE (N CA) (#55)

Member: ETVC

SWM (widower), 60, 5'10", 180. Enjoy appearing as well-dressed older lady. Like good food, good wine, conversations with friends, shopping and in general having fun times. Would love to meet other TV's and understanding gentlemen of this area for companionship, dating, etc.

Betty Byrne, P.O. Box 2565, Napa, CA 94558

MARILYN V. (C CA) (#54)

Member: Tri-Ess

Married hetero WM, 5'11", 220, size 18, 43. Enjoy country music, flying, golf, professional musician.

Marilyn V., P.O. Box 3286, Bakersfield, CA 83385 (CA-2330)

MICHAEL S. (S CA) (#55)

Female-to-male pre-op TS, muscular, masculine, 5'4". Non-smoker, non-drinker. Interests: Career, family, art museums, books, conversation, walking, meditation. Open to possible marriage with appropriate monogamous M-F pre-op or post-op. I have lived full time as a man for 10 years. I am attracted to feminine women, genetic or otherwise.

Michael S. (CA-2348)

Roxanna P. CA-2350

ROXANNA P. (N CA) (#56)
Member: ETVC

Married TV, 6', medium build. Very supportive wife. Professional artist. Expression of the feminine self in image, feeling, and act is vital. I am an open and positive person and would like to share through correspondence and/or meetings. Into painting, photography, ephemera, posing, dancing, fun, and aspects of the Goddess.

Roxanna P., P.O. Box 8182, Berkeley, CA 94707 (CA-2350)

Alyson D. CA-1755

ALYSON DANIELS (S CA) (#56)
Member: PPOC

TV, 5'11". "I try to go out in public every couple weeks in the Pasadena area. I'm encouraged by moments when I seem to pass. I'm looking for friends (all types) who can understand or share my complexities. Be forewarned, I'm a lousy correspondent."

Alyson D. (CA-1755)

MARY BERNICE F. (N CA) (#55)
Member: ETVC

Senior lady, new to San Francisco. Loves to be the lady she is. Loves people. Tell me about yourself; send a picture. Know that we can help each other to enjoy our heart-felt desire to be a successful TV.

Mary Bernice F. (CA-2405)

Kayla A. CA-2459

KAYLA ALLEN (N CA) (#55)

WM TV, 24, 6'3", 250. Computer systems analyst. Interested in meeting other TV/TS in Sacramento area. Travel to SF Bay area periodically. Heavily involved in Sci-Fi fandom, organizing conventions and clubs. Occasionally travel around the country to attend SF conventions. Would love to meet others active in both fandom and gender issues. I enjoy dressing, but also enjoy escorting others while not crossdressed, and have helped a sister TV make her first public appearances this way. Am also a member and participant on CompuServe's Human Sexuality Genderline Forum.

Kayla Allen, P.O. Box 95, Sutter, CA 95982-0095 (CA-2459)

ARLENE ROSEN (N CA) (#54)
Member: ETVC

37, 5'6", 155, brown hair, blue eyes, TV/TS, bi-sexual. Interested in finding L.T.R. with other like myself, and becoming a whole person. "I can no longer go on hiding my true self. I wish to find a room (soul) mate and begin enjoying our lives together. If you feel the same, please contact me. The sooner you do the better the world will seem."

Arlene R. (CA-2273)

MATT D. (S CA) (#55)

WM non-crossdresser, 26, 6'5", brown hair & eyes, business owner, single. Enjoys travel, theatre, movies, weight lifting, aerobics, music. Looking for a TV or TS for correspondence, dating, and long term relationship. Will answer all.

Matt D., P.O. Box 3462, Fullerton, CA 92634-3462 (CA-2482)

ANNE VITALE, Ph.D. (N CA) (#56)
Member: HBIGDA
Participant: HBIGDA Conference

I am a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues. Being myself a M-F TS (operation in Jan. 1980) my interest in this area is both deep and personal. Although I am in private practice, I am closely associated with other Bay Area gender professionals and can provide complete pre- and post-op psychotherapy as well as recommendations for hormonal therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery when applicable.

Anne Vitale PhD, D St. Counseling Group, 610 D St., San Rafael, CA 94901

HAWAII (& ISLANDS) (967- 969-)

Clara Ann B. HI-0955

CLARA ANN BULLARD (HI) (#55)
Member: Delta Chi chapter Tri-Ess

60, 6', 195. Have dressed since youth. Love being a woman and every part of feminine life. Have been out many times - window shopping, walking, sitting at bus stops, etc. Feel very comfortable with other CDs. "Let's face it - we all love being a woman and being called a lady."

Clara Ann Bullard (HI-0955)

PHYLIS D. (HI) (#55)

6', 66, blonde, green eyes. Enjoys music, reading, art - interior decoration, cooking. When dressed, I present a subdued dignified exterior. I think I look younger than my age. My attitudes toward life are not always dignified! I have a quick sense of humor, especially when directed at myself. I like people - including me!

Philip L. Davis, 444 Nahua, #1610, Honolulu, HI 96815

TRACY RYAN (HI) (#54)

Hetero TV, 34, 5'8", 150. Outer dresser who enjoys being fully dressed and passing in public. A big shopper who spends most weekends at the malls en femme. Out of the closet since 1975, and well adjusted to this lifestyle, but lacking in TV companionship. Would like to correspond with TV's from all over. Would especially like to hear from those in Honolulu. I know you are out there.

T. Ryan, 777 Kapiolani Blvd, #2114, Honolulu, HI 96813 (HI-2180)

OREGON (970- 979-)

Karen K. OR-0322

KAREN K. (OR) (#56)

Member: Tri Ess (Board of Directors), NWGA

Participant: Be All, Holiday En Femme

SWM hetero TV, 47, 5'9", 182. Pleasant personality who enjoys meeting and writing other sisters. I dress en femme about every day, and I go out dressed as often as possible. I'm comfortable dressed in public, and I pass well. I have gone to restaurants, the theater, etc. dressed, and I will continue in the future because I enjoy expressing my feminine personality. My interests are photography, camping & hiking, all sports, music, reading, theater, and dressing. I also travel a great deal; and so I am able to meet a lot of sisters around the country.

Karen K. (OR-0322)

Ellen S. OR-0382

ELLEN SUMMERS (OR) (#53)

IFGE Board of Directors, Vice-Chrprsn Board of Directors, Chrprsn Nominations Committee.

Member: NWGA, ETVC, Emerald City

Awards: "DREAM" Grand Dame '83

Interests: Travel ad big band era music - have large collection of '40's, '50's, and '60's recordings. Late 50's, married with three children, all know of Ellen and understand. "I will answer all letters addressed to me or to NWGA".

Ellen S., c/o NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 92708-4928

JEANETTE GENS (OR) (#55)

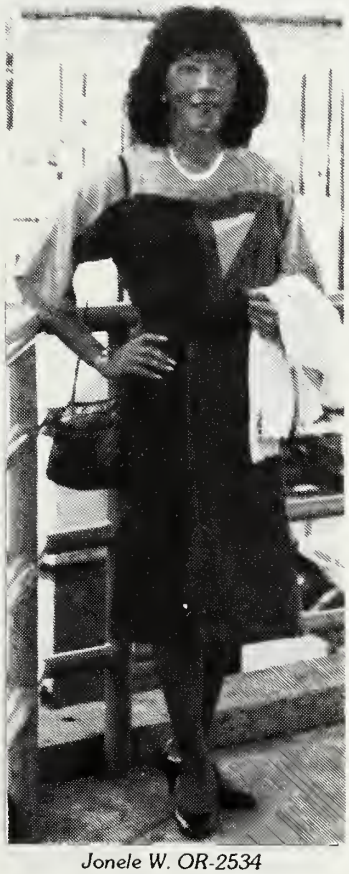
Member: NWGA

Participant: DREAM

Blonde, 195, late 60's, 5'9", married, wife understands, 3 children (all know). Have been a cross-dresser since age 8. Appearing in public with the wife for the past 25 years. Retired professional. Especially enjoy wearing 4" heels (have over 150 pair in my wardrobe). Enjoy my collection of 30's & 40's big band era music. I will answer all cross-dresser letters.

Jeanette Gens, c/o NWGA, P.O. Box 4928, Portland, OR 92708 (OR-2426)

Stacy C. OR-1806



Jonele W. OR-2534

STACY CLEMENT (OR) (#56)

MWM TV, 6', 190, green eyes, auburn hair (long enough to wear naturally). Very passable. Professional photographer. I especially love photo sessions with TV friends. Enjoy shopping, cooking, wine, food, and friends. "I've been around the TV scene for years and would like to exchange stories, tales, and the like with you!"

Ms. Stacy Clement, 3012 NE Hoyt, Box B, Portland, OR 97232

JONELE WONG (OR) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

5'5", 125, size 7, late 30's, Asian-American. Interests include playing guitar, skiing, kayaking, running. I love silk dresses and heels. Pass well and love to be out and about shopping, dining, taking in shows. I would like to contact more ladies, especially in the NW. Will exchange photos and true accounts of feminine adventures with all.

Jonele Wong, P.O. Box 24941, Eugene, OR 97402

WASHINGTON (980- 994-)

Sandy S. WA-1022

SANDY S. (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City

Participant: 90 In 90

5'11", 185, blue eyes, blond. Enjoy the total look, enjoy going out and meeting others. Love the entire look from lingerie to high heels and stockings. Want to learn all I can and meet others with same interest. Have enjoyed events in Portland and Seattle. Would especially like to meet others with accepting wives.

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

JUDY OSBORNE (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA, Tri-Ess

Participant: Fantasia Fair

5'11, 155. Enjoys sailing, reading, tennis, sports, cooking. "Love friends in the transgendered community, and in the other life. Wish the two could be brought together. Making some progress in this."

Judy Osborne, Box 19394, Seattle, WA 98109 (WA-1024)

Mary G. WA-1826

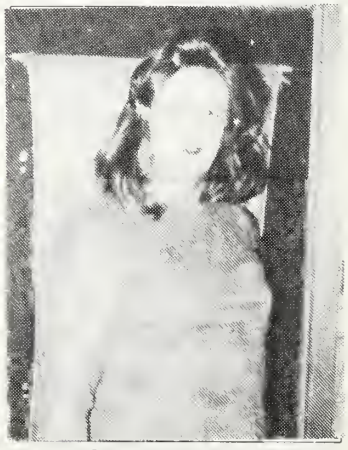
MARY M. GIBBONS (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA

Participant: Holiday En Femme, Fantasia Fair, Coming Together

MWM TV, 48, 5'11". Enjoy music (attend opera and ballet and enjoy much wider variety), travel, movies, books. I have an accepting family which allows very satisfying activities. Enjoy meeting and corresponding with other interesting people. Not interested in macho pursuits at all. Interested in friends, not "relationship".

Ms Mary M. Gibbons, P.O. Box 1151, Mercer Island, WA 98040 (WA-1826)



Sarah W. WA-2027

SARAH WALL (WA) (#53)

DWM hetero TV, 6', 180. Dark hair, blue eyes; size 18, professional. Enjoys photography, back packing, classical music, reading, cooking, sewing, travel. I am newly out of the

closet and would like to form friendships in the Northwest and worldwide. Can travel and entertain. All answered. Photo appreciated.

Sarah Wall, P.O. Box 766, Issaquah, WA 98027

Paula S. WA-1973

PAULA S. (WA) (#53)

Member: Emerald City

Tall, slender, friendly & outgoing. Passable & experienced crossdresser. Very supportive spouse. We enjoy meeting & going out with other CD's, especially couples, & we love to correspond.

Paula S., 540-C NE Northgate Way, #505, Seattle, WA 98125

MICHELLE W. (WA) (#53)

Wife of a crossdresser for 17 years. Have known of his desires for a relatively short time. Need to correspond with other wives for information and support.

Michelle W. (WA-1959)

JACKALYN MCNEAL (WA) (#53)

Pre-op TS, 29, 5'11", 157, blonde, blue eyes. Looking to write/talk and mingle with others who share some of the same things I have gone through since I was 11 years old.

Jackalyn Mc. (WA-1986)

JEAN G. (WA) (#54)

WM, 5'11", 175. Enjoys feminine underwear all the time, dress up completely, but only in private on occasion. Non-supportive wife, although she knows. Will answer all letters.

Jean G. (WA-1331)

MELISSA LEEANN PRATHER (WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City

Participant: '90 In '90

MWM TV, 5'10", 190, 56 with semi supportive wife. Enjoys sewing and design, art, calligraphy, cooking, model roading, stamp collecting, writing. Would enjoy hearing from others.

Melissa LeeAnn Prather, 7358-28 Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126

CHERYL (WA) (#55)

Married, 44, 5'2", blonde. Enjoy swing music, golf, video, 40's fashions, bowling, lingerie, TV literature. AA member; 15 years sober. Love to write letters and share experiences. Will answer all correspondence.

Cheryl Gregory, 177 Telegraph Road #440, Bellingham, WA 98226

STEPHANIE NOTTINGHAM (WA) (#53)

Member: Alternatives (President)

Pre-op M-F TS, close to fulltime life as a woman. Very passable and feminine; work as an image consultant. Would like to correspond with other TSs and TVs around the country. Looking for the right man. Will answer all letters.

Stephanie N. (WA-2127)

Sally R. WA-1292

SALLY RAY (WA) (#54)

Member: NWGA, Emerald City

MWM, 34, 5'8", 165, blue eyes, professional. I am a small town girl that makes it to the "big city" (Portland or Seattle) 5 or 6 times a year for 3-day weekends. I pass well day or night and love to shop and party. I have experienced the thrill of many "firsts" in the last 2 years, and now want to concentrate on developing my feminine interests.

Sally Ray, P.O. Box 1383, Walla Walla, WA 99362

STEPHANIE NELSON (WA) (#55)

Hetero CD, 6'2", 160, 40, brown hair, green eyes, professional. Interests: Skiing, tennis, camping. Would like to develop honest, sharing friendship, non-sexual. I would also like to develop my femininity to pass in public. I would particularly like to hear from other CD's, TV's, or TS's in Spokane area.

Stephanie Nelson, P.O. Box 15183, Spokane, WA 99215 (WA-

JENNIFER MARTIAN (SW WA) (#56)

Member: IFGE Supporting Mbr

Single M-F pre-op TS, 29. Enjoy model railroading, socializing with other TS's. Enjoy my job as a building maintenance engineer. On hormones one year. Would like to visit and talk with other TS's in Washington. Because I word 6-7 days a week it is difficult for me to travel, but I do get to Seattle four times a year to see my physician.

Jennifer Martian, 1327 Delaware Ave SE, Apt 1, Richland, WA 99352 (WA-1710)

MICHELLE LYNN (WA) (#55)

Married TV, 37, pleasant personality. Enjoys people. Still in closet, but would like to meet sisters in NW WA area. Love all heels and feminine finery. Enjoy boating, camping, cooking, & having fun. Will answer all letters and exchange photos. Very discrete. Write... even to say "Hi!"

SAMANTHA LOVELL (WA) (#54)

5'10", 150, 35, blond, blue eyes, size 14. Very active athletically (bicycling, running, mtn climbing). Also enjoy classical music and reading (best sellers, sci-fi, TV fiction). Been dressing in private for 20+ years. Just found out that there are others. Want marriage but shy (my feminine side) and afraid to relate my TV habits. Please write.

Samantha Lovell, P.O. Box 5243, Kent, WA 98064-5243 (WA-2302)

ALASKA (995- 999-)

Kyndel M. AK-2087

KYNDEL FAY MERCEDES (AK) (#54)

Member: Berdache Society (Chrprsn & IFGE Rep)

Warm, expressive transgendered person enjoying the process of being and becoming Kyndel Fay. Married with a life partner who is most supportive. Interests: Psychology, anthropology, transcendental metaphysics, honest sharing friendship, developing my femininity, and hearing from you. Not much is clear, but this much is certain, I'm glad I'm out. Will answer all who write.

Kyndel Fay Mercedes, Box 113162, Anchorage, AK 99511

DONNA S. (AK) (#55)

Member: Berdache Society

Married life-long TV, 5'9", 33, 145. Life-long alaskan, enjoy being dressed en femme in public, short skirts, and meeting people, and hearing from people.

Donna S. (AK-2247)

SUSANNE MARIE B. (AK) (#56)

MWM, 33, 6'3", 175, brown hair, blue eyes. Interested in corresponding with other CD's and TV's and attending my first public function as "Susanne". Would welcome any letters and photos and will return same. Would like to communicate with those who share my love for women's clothing, and playing the part as well.

Susanne B. (AK-2422)

CANADA

Micheline J. CAN-0560

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON CAN) (#54)

Member: FACT-Ottawa

Gentle, sensitive, affection-starved woman (white pre-op M-F TS, born 1930's, hormones since 1979) seeking romantic relationship with caring man, correspondence or in person, preferably in eastern Canada or northeastern U.S. I would be attracted to non-smoking, intellectually inclined, articulate special person interested in the arts, travel, romance, dancing, hugging, dinners by candlelight. Write with photo, phone num-

ber to:

Micheline Johnson, P.O. Box 9155, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3T9

CAROLYN ALEXANDER (ON CAN) (#53)

I'm a 40-something attractive and sophisticated bi WMM CD, well and truly educated with a sensuous, caring attitude. I pass easily and love to be totally feminine. Looking for intimate friendship with readers having similar make-up who wish to meet or correspond.

Carolyn Alexander, Box 7115, Vanier PO, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1L 8E3

Mary Lou H. CAN-0440

MARY LOU H. (AL CAN) (#54)

Member: Tri Ess, ETVC, NWGA

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, Tri Ess Holiday, Shangri La, 'Be All'

SWM hetero TV, retired, 5'8", size 12, musician, loves concerts, drama, nature, museums, traveling. Stylish dresser with fine wardrobe. Will meet hetero TVs and understanding girls/ladies. I love correspondence and exchange of pictures. Will answer all.

Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

LINDA JENSEN (ON CAN) (#56)

Tall, slim, blue eyed, dark hair. "Love to shop, cress, go out. Also into fitness, home video, and stimulating conversation and travel. I've met many fine persons involved in the cross-dresser's world. I would like to meet and share experiences with more."

Linda Jensen, Box 15855, Stn. F, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C-3S7 (CAN-0442)

JOAN BRIDGEMAN (ON CAN) (#55)

Member: Tiffany, Transition Support, CGS, ETVC, Boulton & Park.

Participant: IFGE Convention '88, '89; Texas Tea Party '89, Be-All '88, 89.

Middle age M-F TS. "I am very poor at answering letters because I am too busy and enjoy travelling. However, please feel free to call me if you are in Toronto."

Joan Bridgeman (CAN-0565)

YVETTE DUCHARME (QUE CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess, Tiffany, IFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair 1989

DWM, hetero, 49, 5'11". Live alone. Interests: All about makeup ad femme things, travel (especially security aspects), reading, listening to music, shooting, and race cars. "I enjoy corresponding very much. My femme personality is classical type. Relaxed and open to discussion. Would like to correspond and form new friendships."

Yvette D. (CAN-1632)

Julie F. CAN-1665

JULIE FASHIONS (BC-CAN) (#55)

SWM, 5'9", 164, 42, blue eyes, trim figure. Works publicly as male, lives privately as female. Loves shopping and all things feminine. Will correspond with others who are TV/TS.

Julie Fashions (CAN-1665)

SARAH GEDDIS (AL CAN) (#54)

Participant: Be All Weekend '89

Member: Phi Sigma, Calgary, Alberta (charter)

Hetero TV, 36, married to an understanding and terrific and understanding lady. Interests: photography, camping, computers, people. Member Tri-Ess. Several of us have formed a club for hetero CDs in Calgary, Alberta. Anyone interested contact:

Phi Sigma, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

LOUISE M. (BC CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Holiday En Femme (Chicago), Tiffany P-Town Outing, Be-All (Chicago)

SWM, TV, 135, well-educated, attractive and neat, very fit 60-ish. Enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, cycling, golf, music (symphonic to "soul"), theatre, good books, everything feminine, and making the most of each passing day. "I enjoy corresponding with my sisters and am a conscientious correspondent. I dress very frequently at home and love going out as my other self. I feel relaxed and confident as a woman."

Louise M. (CAN-1787)

KAREN HOPE (ON CAN) (#55)

Member: Tri-ess.

Participant: Local Tri-Ess functions.

41, married, 2 children, professional. Finally emerging after struggle since age 4. My wife and my local Tri-Ess group are supportive. I'm here!

Karen Hope, Box 8282, Alta Vista Station, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H7

Dianne V. CAN-2017

DIANNE VERLAINE (QUE) (#53)

SWM hetero TV, 26, 5'10", 140, still in closet. Interests: Reading, writing & collecting books. Although I have been crossdressing since childhood I am only now beginning to come to terms with my TV feelings. Would very much like to share my thoughts, experiences, & dreams with others. Promise to answer all.

Dianne Verlaine, P.O. Box 608, N.D.G. Post Office, Montreal, QUE H4A 3R1 CANADA

ROBYN H. (ON CAN) (#53)

Member: Tri-Ess

35, 5'8", 157, brunette, single, self employed. Have crossdressed since childhood. Prefer a contemporary look to a flashy look. Like to venture outside at night when possible. Have great legs. Need understanding girlfriend; but then, who doesn't?

R. Howe, Box 43, St Catharines, ON L2R 6R4 CANADA

RUTH SCHOFIELD (ON CAN) (#53)

Member: FACT-Toronto

5'8", 158, blonde, blue eyes. Wife supportive & understanding. Love to dress in evening wear, heels, nylons, corsets. Read a lot, interested in novels about enforced CD, but can't find any. Needs help coming out and passing in public.

Ruth S. (CAN-1917)

LISA DANIELLE S. (ON CAN) (#53)

Member: TV-Guys, GIC Toronto

35, 5'11", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, single TV all my life. Enjoy music, art, theatre, long walks, good conversation, candlelight dinners, going out as often as possible. Like to meet other TVs or understanding person for companionship. Can travel and entertain.

L.D. Stroud, P.O. Box 1258 Sta. "A", Hamilton, ON L8N 4B4 CANADA

REBECCA W. (ON CAN) (#54)

Member: Monarch Social Club, Transition Support

Single, mid 30's, 6'2", 155, reddish brown hair. I would like to communicate with others who are either TV-TS or sincerely interested for social and supportive ideas. I have been living a long time alone as a TV and know the isolation one goes through. I am very sincere and discreet. I have a small apartment, and can travel or entertain on a small basis. Please write soon.

R. Wenman, 124 Tupper Cr, Apt #203, Kitchener, ON N2B 2X9 CANADA

Karen Anne B. CAN-1970

KAREN-ANNE BROWN (ON CAN) (#56)

Hi! I'm a 5'4" TV doll, petite size 12, 39-31-38. I pass easily if I do not talk. I like soft romantic music, white wine, and willing to consider any fantasy. I also write TV fiction, and have mags and books to swap. I enjoy computers and intelligent conversation. I am in the closet, but willing to travel W QUE, Northern NY, and E ONT, for the right person. Only well written letters will be responded to.

Karen-Anne Brown, P.O. Box 1175, Cornwall, ON K6H 5V2 CANADA (CAN-1970)

ALLISON JENNIFER BRENT (AL CAN) (#56)

Member: Phi Sigma

MWM, hetero CD, 5'9", 172, 6'4",

brown hair, brown eyes. I am married to a wonderful gal who is aware of my CD interests, but prefers to remain uninvolved. Interests include music of the big band era, racquet sports, hiking and canoeing. I enjoy dressing and making 'Allison' just as feminine as she can be.

Allison B. (CAN-1656)

BEVERLEY V. (ON CAN) (#55)

MWM hetero TV, 45, 5'10", 185, ash blonde, blue eyed professional. "Enjoy boating, skiing, art, theater, dining. Enjoy feminine dressing - cautious, conservative - come out timidly and quite passable. Look forward to meeting and writing other sincere, discrete, empathetic TV's, TS's, & supportive females to help me become more at ease."

Beverley V. (CAN-2449)

Christine B. CAN-2474

CHRISTINE B. (BC CAN) (#56)

Married, 40, 6', 165, TS oriented with supportive wife. "My primary interests lie in raising my children and being in a fulfilling relationship with my wife, and exploring the unlimited potential of my career. Having read Kyndel Kellis' article in Issue 55, I have embraced the concept of berdache - each day is different. I have only been out dressed twice. I need a clear understanding of the legal ramifications of being made before pushing my luck. I would appreciate feed back."

Christine B. (CAN-2474)

ENGLAND

CELIA SCOTT-SHEPARD (ENG) (#54)

Member: Beaumont Society

Widower, 5'9", 152. Occasional TV from age 4 to partner's death. Now getting more deeply involved. Interested especially in language and music. Would like to receive audio tapes in exchange for my "first and second voices".

Celia S. (ENG-1904)

EUROPE

Helen S. FRA-2178

HELEN S. (FRANCE) (#55)

Member: Trans-CCL (Paris)

TV, 57, 5'11", blonde. Enjoy everything feminine. Interests: classical music, arts, reading, biking. Especially enjoy writing or meeting with sisters and understanding ladies. Wish contact with other European members.

Helen S. (FRA-2178)

SUSAN JEAN SMITH (W. GERMANY) (#55)

Attractive TS w/great legs, 5'9", well-built and educated, seeking husband, friends, and job. Would like to meet men who would consider a serious and permanent relationship with me. Interests include SRS, intelligent people, and creative writing.

Susan Jean Smith (GER-2235)

AUSTRALIA

MARINA LANG (AUS) (#56)

Member: Seahorse Club of Victoria

Participant: Cup Eve Ball, Arts Ball

TS, 194 cm, blonde. Enjoys classical music, oil painting, theatre, concerts, eating out in restaurants, fashion, and dress design. Would like to hear from other very tall IFGE members.

Marina Lang, G.P.O. Box 1177K, Melbourne, 3001 Australia (AUS-0693)

JOANNE WILSON (AUS) (#56)

Member: Seahorse Australia

44, 5'10", 154. I'm a professional writer and I also write TV stories for many magazines.

Joanne Wilson, 3 Dundas Place, Albert Park, 3206 Australia (AUS-2516)

Jo Ann W. AUS-2516

HONG KONG

ROSEMARY MARYON LANGTON (HONG KONG) (#56)

Member: Beaumont Society

MWM lifelong TV, 58. Enjoys dress making & alterations, travel, corresponding with and meeting TV's in Hong Kong and elsewhere. I am an enthusiastic & committed TV, & can pass easily. My wife and grown up children know and accept Rosemary. I love having my own hair set and going to beauty salons for facials. I enjoy role playing and am fascinated by Victorian and Edwardian fashions, including tight lacing. I have an extensive wardrobe both of current fashions and maid, little girl, maternity, and Japanese outfits. I like to correspond with and possibly meet TV's everywhere as I travel extensively.

Rosemary Langton, G.P.O. Box 9171, Hong Kong (HK-1792)

#56

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3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the crossdressing and transsexual phenomena, and of the people who are members of that community.

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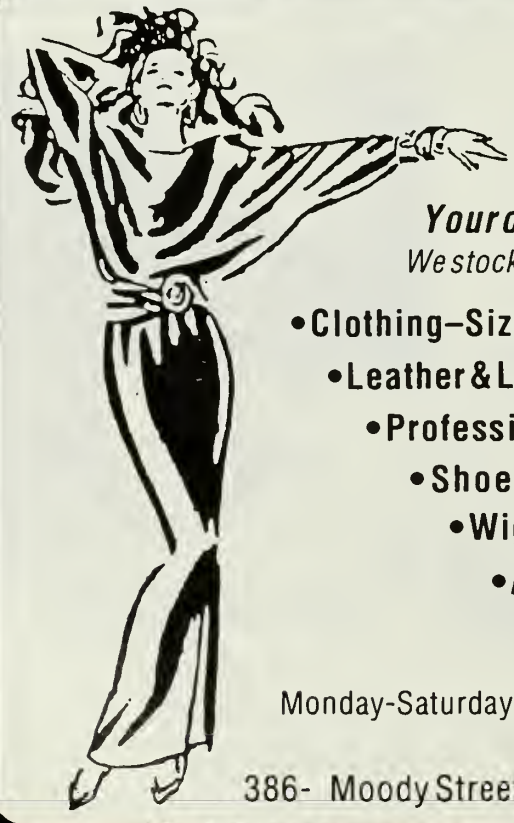

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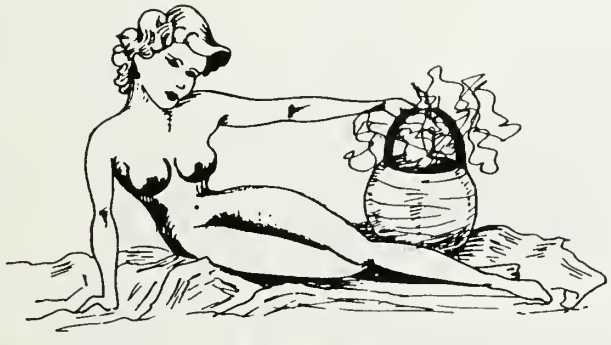

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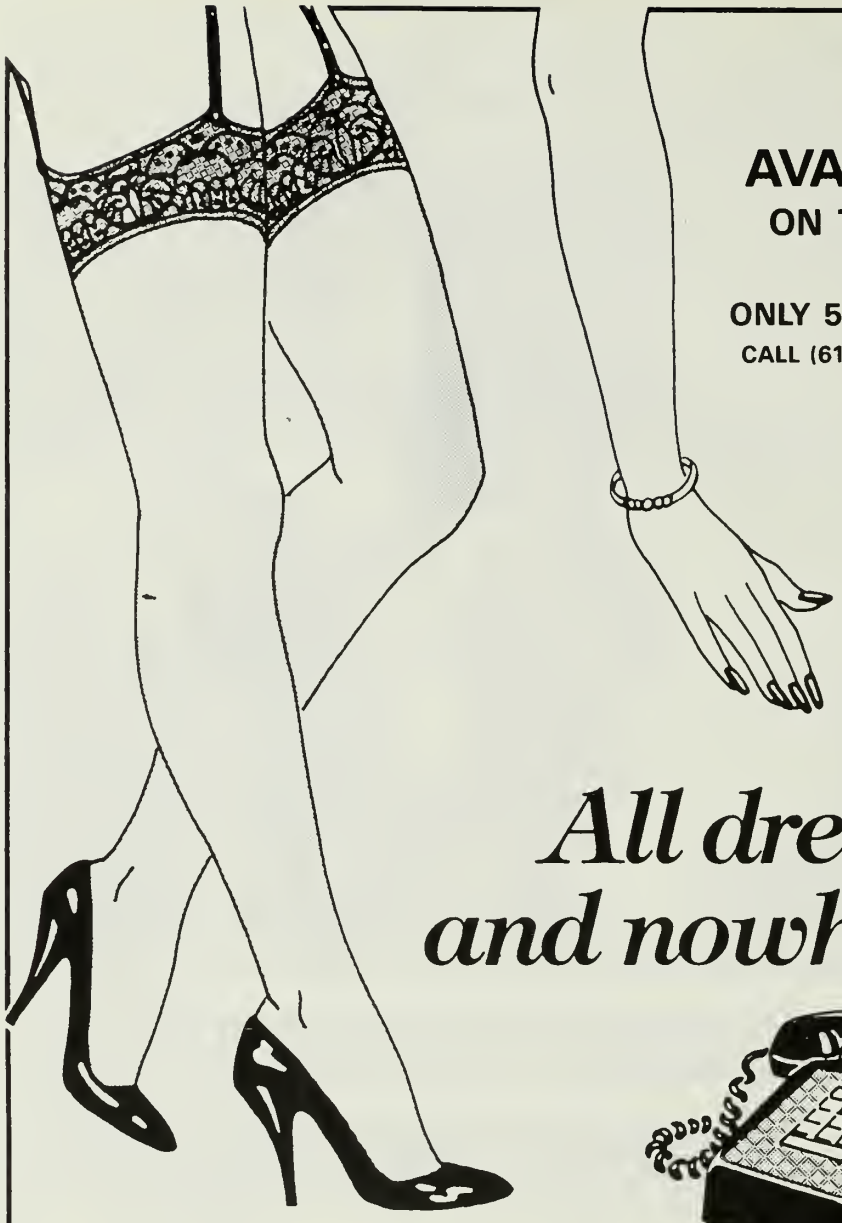

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